

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Pic: Mike Lambert



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Volume 2, No. 100 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

MONDAY, JULY 19, 2004

## U.S. nabs Saddam military leader suspected in attacks

American jets hit militant targets in Fallujah; 14 killed

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## Holding steady

Armstrong still a close second after 14th stage of Tour de France

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Photo by AP; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY XERIQUE GARFINKEL/Stars and Stripes

Riders in the Tour de France are seen through vineyards as the pack pedals outside Beziers on Sunday during the 14th stage of the Tour de France in southern France. Five-time champion Lance Armstrong is still in second place in the overall standings, trailing France's Thomas Voeckler by 22 seconds. He is expected to claim his record sixth title when the tour wraps up Sunday in Paris.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Coal mine accident:** Five Pennsylvania miners who narrowly escaped a 2002 coal mine accident that trapped nine others in a flooded tunnel for three days have sued the mine's owners and operators, alleging they knew or should have known of the dangers.

The miners allege that they suffered from post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression and shock, and have spent money on medical care.

The miners were part of a crew that escaped as millions of gallons of icy water surged into the Quacreek Mine, 70 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, on July 24, 2002, after they were warned by another nine-man crew deeper in the mine.

**Haitian arrests warning:** The State Department's top diplomat for Latin America says he is "concerned" about the arrests in Haiti of supporters of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and cautioned the interim government to observe the rule of law.

Roger Noriega, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, said that while the situation in Haiti has improved dramatically since Aristide left the country on Feb. 29, political, socioeconomic and security problems remain.

Still, Noriega added, recent arrests by the interim Haitian government, such as that of Aristide's former prime minister, Yvon Neptune, trouble the Bush administration. Noriega's criticism of the interim government was remarkable, given the strong U.S. support for Aristide's successors.

**Mount Rainier identification:** A body found on Mount Rainier has been identified as one of two Montana climbers who were swept to their deaths while ascending the treacherous Liberty Ridge route.

Warm weather melted enough snow and ice for a climber to spot the remains of Ansel Vizcaya on Tuesday about 9,300 feet up the north face of the 14,411-foot Washington peak, said Michael J. Gauthier, Mount Rainier National Park search and rescue supervisor.

Vizcaya, 29, of Missoula, Mont., and his climbing partner, Luke Casady, 29, of Stevensville, Mont., apparently did nothing wrong but were pinned down by a sudden storm and then caught by an avalanche, Gauthier said.

**Embattled sheriff:** The sheriff of one of the nation's most troubled jails is dodging possible suspension and firing by taking time off for the rest of her elected term.

Fulton County, Ga., Sheriff Jackie Barrett faces several investigations involving a rap video filmed in a maximum-security wing of the Fulton County Jail, deplorable conditions at the facility and a money-losing investment of \$7.2 million in public funds.

Barrett, the nation's first female black sheriff when elected in 1992, still may be prosecuted in a federal probe of the use of taxpayer dollars in an investment fund that lost \$2 million, and for taking campaign contributions from businessmen who stood to benefit from those investments.

**Nursing home fire:** Lax safety standards and inaccurate information about fire drills contributed to the deaths of 16 people in a



**Afghan election:** An Afghan woman receives her voter identification card as others wait Sunday at a voter registration center in Kabul, Afghanistan. The country's off-delayed presidential election will take place Oct. 9, but a parliamentary vote originally scheduled to be held simultaneously was put off until the spring. According to the Joint Electoral Management Body of Afghanistan, an estimated 6.5 million eligible voters have registered to vote, with 38 percent of them women.

fire at a Hartford, Conn., nursing home last year, federal investigators say.

A report issued Friday by the U.S. Government Accountability Office also faulted the staff of the Greenwood Health Center for failing to properly apply the nursing home's fire response plan, particularly by not shutting doors to patients' rooms after the Feb. 26, 2003, fire started.

### World

**Chechnya killing:** A local leader of Russia's first pre-presidential party was shot to death in Chechnya early Sunday in what the region's prosecutor said was a contract killing linked to the Aug. 29 presidential election.

Tamara Khadzhiyeva of United Russia, which supports President Vladimir Putin, was killed by masked gunmen at her home in Shali, southeast of the Chechen capital Grozny, an official in the Moscow-backed government said on condition of anonymity.

Three attackers broke into Khadzhiyeva's home at about 3:30 a.m. and shot her at point-blank, the ITAR-Tass news agency quoted Chechnya's chief prosecutor Vladimir Kravchenko as saying.

**Militants in Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Arabia announced Sunday that it has received 27 wanted militants from a number of countries.

An unidentified official did not provide other details, except to say that the militants were handed over by "brotherly" countries, a term usually used to describe Arab and Muslim states.

It was not clear whether the 27 had surrendered to Saudi diplomats or were arrested.

**British mock-terror attack:** Some 2,000 emergency service personnel rushed to the scene of a mock poison gas attack Sunday as part of Britain's biggest ever terror exer-

cise.

About 400 Army and Red Cross volunteers posing as civilian casualties filed out of the National Exhibition Center in Birmingham at 9:30 a.m. Police arrived at the scene some 15 minutes after the theoretical gas attack and sealed off the area, followed by fire crews and ambulance staff.

West Midlands Police said the drill, titled Exercise Horizon, was the biggest of its kind ever staged in Britain.

**Sudan talks on hold:** Talks to end the slaughter of tens of thousands in Sudan's Darfur region have been put on hold indefinitely after two rebel groups walked out saying the Sudanese government has ignored existing peace agreements, an African Union mediator said.

The failure this weekend of what was to be a fresh round of talks raised new doubts about chances for ending the bloodshed and its accompanying refugee crisis.

Tens of thousands of black Africans have died in more than a year of violence that's turned into a systematic slaughter blamed on Arab militias.

### War on terrorism

**Polish troops in Iraq:** Poland will keep troops in Iraq at least through the end of 2005, but firmly intends to reduce its presence at the start of next year, the nation's prime minister said Sunday.

Poland, which commands a 17-nation force in south-central Iraq, is required by a U.N. resolution to remain in Iraq until the end of 2005. But Polish leaders haven't determined what role their country will play after that, Prime Minister Marek Belka said during a visit to Camp Babylon, the force's headquarters in Iraq.

He said Poland will start "thinking about changing the nature of our military presence" after 2005.

Photo and stories from wire services

## Messages of Support



Appreciation goes out to all service personnel for the splendid job you are doing. Thank you for caring enough about those of our blessed country. I know you must think of us as individuals and not as a single country and I appreciate you for the way

you are defending what I and many others believe. You are truly heroes in my book. If I could, I would come over to support you. I have a son, daughter-in-law and several other family members fighting with you. Every one of you are in our esteem and prayers. Know that we

care and are waiting you welcome you home as heroes. Love and Prayer, Don and Charlene. WV

Hi Stacie, We are thinking of and praying for you every day! Hugs, G.A. Mary & G.U. Matt

# U.S. nabs Iraqi military leader, strikes Fallujah

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In their continuing effort to quash the insurgency, U.S. forces said Sunday they had detained a senior commander of Saddam's elite Republican Guard, who was suspected of planning and financing attacks against Iraqis, Iraqi security forces and coalition troops.

Also on Sunday, in the sixth U.S. airstrike since last month, American jets hit a position in Fallujah purportedly used by foreign militants, demolishing a house and killing 14 people, hospital and local officials said.

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi gave the go-ahead for the attack, according to his office and the U.S. military.

And an Islamic web site posted Sunday a statement attributed to a group close to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi offering a reward of the equivalent of \$280,000 to whoever kills Iraq's interim prime minister.

On Friday, Iraqi national guardsmen and coalition forces captured Sufyan Maher Hassan in a raid in Tikrit. He was being held at a local multinational force detention facility, said Maj. Neal O'Brien of the 1st Infantry Division.

Hassan was the Republican Guard commander responsible for units defending Baghdad during the war. A relative of former leader Saddam Hussein, Hassan was blamed for the quick fall of Baghdad.

In recent weeks, insurgents also have stepped up attacks on local officials and police, whom they view as collaborators with the U.S.-led coalition forces.

Two car bombs targeting police exploded in the city of Tikrit on Sunday morning, killing two police officers and wounding five others, Iraqi authorities said.

Tikrit was Saddam's hometown and remains a hotbed of the violent resistance against U.S. forces.

In previous airstrikes in Fallujah, the United States said it was targeting safe houses used by the network of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian militant blamed for masterminding car bombings and other attacks in Iraq.

The latest attack targeted foreign militants "fighting positions and trench lines near the remains of a house," according to a statement by U.S. Brig. Gen. Erv Lessel. About 25 fighters were just before the attack, he said, citing Iraqi and coalition intelligence sources.

Local residents said the attack destroyed a house filled with civilians.

Allawi has promised strong cooperation with the Americans in rooting out terrorism and said after a July 5 airstrike in Fallujah that his government had provided the intelligence for the strike.

Allawi consulted with U.S. forces Saturday about the strike, his office said.

Explosions from the strike rocked the city at about 2 a.m. Scores of people ran to the scene and dug through the wreckage looking for survivors. One witness, who declined to give his name, said the house belonged to a "very poor family." Angry crowds gathered around the house, chanting "God is great."

"We heard the sound of jetfight-



Iraqi National Guard soldiers prepare to dispose of a stockpile of old Iraqi military weapons Sunday in Siba, near Basra, Iraq.

ers and then we heard four explosions in the house occupied by civilian residents," Lt. Saad Khalaf of the Fallujah Brigade, the local defense force.

The attack killed 14 people and injured three, according to Saad al-Amili, a Health Ministry official.

U.S. Marines besieged Fallujah, a hotbed of resistance, for several weeks last spring and then handed over security to the new Fallujah Brigade, made up of local residents and commanded by officers from Saddam Hussein's former army. Many of those who fought the Marines joined the brigade.

Meanwhile, a statement on an Islamic Web site by "Khalid bin

Al Walid Brigade" has labeled Allawi as an "American stooge" and said that its assassination unit has vowed to kill Allawi and other Iraqi leaders.

U.S. authorities last week have raised to \$25 million from \$10 million the reward for information leading to the arrest of al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian militant suspected of masterminding a wave of terror attacks in Iraq. Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden has a \$50 million bounty on his head.

Al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida-linked terror network has claimed responsibility for the attacks on police and security forces in Iraq that killed hundreds. He is also believed to be behind the beheading of two hostages, American Nicholas Berg and a South Korean Kim Sun-il.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 886 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 654 died as a result of hostile action and 232 died of nonhostile causes. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 59 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 748 U.S. servicemembers have died, 545 as a result of hostile action and 203 of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by military:

■ One soldier was killed Saturday after his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb near Beiji, Iraq, about 90 miles south of Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

## Philippines pullout may be complete by Monday

By JIM GOMEZ

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines pledged to complete the withdrawal of its peacekeeping contingent from Iraq as early as Monday, fulfilling a demand made by Iraqi insurgents threatening to behead a Filipino hostage.

The kidnappers holding Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz said earlier they would release him if all Philippine peacekeepers are withdrawn before the end of the month.

Foreign Secretary Delia Albert said in a statement Sunday that the remaining 22 peacekeepers from the original 31-strong deployment would make an "exit call" on the new Polish commander at Camp Charlie in Iraq's Babil province on Monday.

They would be accompanied by Roy Cimatu, a special envoy of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo helping Filipino diplomats in Iraq secure the Cruz's release.

"After the call, the remaining contingent will then proceed to Kuwait, and from there, return to Manila by commercial flight," Albert said.

The Philippine Embassy in Kuwait is arranging their flight back to Manila, she said. Some peacekeepers who earlier left Iraq are due home Monday, officials said.

## Iraq to appoint ambassadors to 43 nations

By NADIA ABU EL-MAGD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq announced Sunday it would appoint ambassadors to 43 countries in a move designed to normalize relations with other nations just three weeks after the United States handed power to an interim government.

The ambassadors, many of whom would be sent to neighboring Arab countries, were to be appointed Monday, Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said during a joint news conference with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

Armitage, the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit the country since the June 28 transfer of sovereignty, earlier met with interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and President Ghazi al-Yawer.

The officials discussed security cooperation between the two countries and efforts to have much of Iraq's nearly \$120 billion in debt forgiven, Allawi said.



U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, right, listens Sunday as Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi speaks in Baghdad.

"We are indebted to the United States for its support and continuing support both in liberating Iraq and reconstructing Iraq," Allawi said after the meeting.

Armitage said the officials spoke about the

security situation, the political process leading to January elections and efforts to rebuild the economy.

"We understand that Iraq's people need more electricity, more water, more jobs — and we are determined to find ways to help the government meet these needs," he said.

Earlier in the day Armitage and the U.S. Mideast envoy, William Burns, met with Kuwait's deputy prime minister to discuss the war on terror and the situation in Iraq.

"They talked about the views of Kuwait about how things are going in Iraq, bilateral relations and the war on terror," according to U.S. Embassy spokesman said.

The officials spoke with Sheikh Nawwaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the interior minister and deputy prime minister.

Kuwait was the launch pad for the war that toppled Saddam Hussein more than a year ago and the small, oil-rich nation fears that instability in Iraq could spill over its borders.

# Controversial Iraqi newspaper reopens

## Closed by coalition troops for 2 months, mouthpiece of 'Sadrist' movement reinstated

BY TAREK EL-TALAWY

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's interim prime minister issued a decree Sunday reopening a controversial newspaper that had been closed by U.S. officials in March, sparking months of fighting between U.S. forces and militants loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Meanwhile, after a two-month lull between major public appearances, al-Sadr showed up in Najaf in an unannounced visit to the

Imam Ali shrine, one of Shism's holiest sites. The mercurial cleric was ushered into the mosque as guards and aides cut a path through hundreds of chanting and cheering supporters.

Al-Sadr's "appearance and the disappearance was for security reasons," said Ahmed al-Shabani, the cleric's spokesman in the holy city of Najaf.

The weekly Al-Hawza was the mouthpiece of al-Sadr's "Sadrist" movement, routinely carrying his fiery sermons on its front page along with articles sharply critical

of the U.S.-led occupation, which formally ended June 28. Iraq's former American governor, L. Paul Bremer, ordered the newspaper closed for two months on March 28 for allegedly inciting violence against coalition troops.

The closure and the arrest a few days later of a close al-Sadr aide in the holy city of Najaf sparked an anti-coalition uprising by militants loyal to al-Sadr in Baghdad and across Shiite areas in central and southern Iraq. A series of truces ended the fighting, which had raged on and off for two months.

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Alawi, himself a Shiite, ordered the paper reopened in an effort to show his "absolute belief in the freedom of the press," his office said in a statement.

Bremer's decision to close al-Hawza had drawn condemnation from members of the now-defunct Governing Council, who said it ran counter to talk of securing freedom for Iraqis.

The order to reopen al-Hawza appears designed to broaden Alawi's base of support as the administration struggles to tackle a

worsening security situation while trying build national support for the new government.

Al-Sadr and his top aides have repeatedly called Alawi's unelected government illegitimate, but said their movement was prepared to adopt a wait-and-see policy as the country prepares for a general election due in January.

Bremer's closure order expired May 28, but al-Hawza's editor in chief, Abbas al-Rohai, has said that trying to resume publication then could have exposed the newspaper's editorial staff to arrest.

# Slain contractor's family says U.S. stonewalling info

The Associated Press

WEST CHESTER, Pa. — Family members of slain American businessman Nicholas Berg are being stonewalled by the U.S. government as they try to find out exactly what happened in the weeks before he was kidnapped and beheaded in Iraq in May, Berg's father said.

Among other details, the Bergs want to know whether Berg, who had been in Iraq seeking work for his fledgling telecommunications company, was being held by allied or Iraqi forces before his kidnapping. The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

"If it weren't for the fact that they were stonewalling us, I think I might have been able to put behind me this need for information," said Berg's father, Michael Berg, an anti-war activist from West Chester. "But it's the fact that they won't come forth with information that makes me wonder why."

Michael Berg said the government was being persistent in its complete apathy toward us. Berg's body was found May 8 in Baghdad. He was last seen on April 10 when he left his Baghdad hotel. His family has maintained the U.S. government contributed to his death because Berg was detained for about two weeks in Iraq, by either Iraqi police or the U.S. military, and missed his flight home. By the time he was released, anti-American violence had increased. The Pentagon maintains it was Iraqi police — not U.S. forces — who detained Berg for 11 days. But the Iraqi police chief has denied that his forces in

Mosul took Berg into custody. Berg also was questioned three times by the FBI, and was urged to leave Iraq, U.S. officials have said.

The family also wants to know whether there was contact between the kidnappers and American representatives, as purportedly claimed by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in an audio of Berg's murder and the videotape released earlier this month.

The Bergs' congressman, Rep. Jim Gerlach, said he has received written accounts of Berg's arrest and detention from officials with the State and Defense departments, but that there "are still a lot of unanswered questions."

Rep. Jim Gerlach

Berg family's congressman

been frustrated, too, in his attempt to have a combined briefing of all the departments involved. If that doesn't occur, he said he wants a congressional hearing.

"At some point, there's got to be... a clearer understanding of who had control over Nick's custody and his release," Gerlach said.

State Department spokesman Steve Pike said that he wasn't aware of Gerlach's request, but that the department is "always open to contact with the Berg family."

While Nicholas Berg was being held, a State Department official and FBI agents told his parents that he was in U.S. custody, after his release, Berg told his family the same. But U.S. officials later said that information was in error and that he was actually being held by Iraqi police.

## Get the best prices at Wong-mart



SHERREE CASPER/Courtesy of U.S. Army

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin R. Wong of Charleston, W.Va., stocks the innovative post exchange at Forward Operating Base Rough Rider known as Wong-Mart, as "clerk" Spc. James R. Smith assists. Soldiers at the base in Mandali, Iraq, have set up their own convenience store and named it after Wong, who oversees the operation, and as a takeoff of retail giant Wal-Mart. Members of the West Virginia Army National Guard deployed to the base can buy items ranging from potato chips to DVD players. About twice a month, a truck joins a convoy and drives several hours to Baghdad International Airport where items are purchased from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service store. The goods are then sold for the same price at Rough Rider. Wong said average daily sales at the store, which opened on Easter, are between \$5,000 to \$6,000. The money is used to buy products for the next run to the airport. The guardsmen are part of 1st Infantry Division-led Task Force Danger.

## Taliban commander detained

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. forces have detained a former Taliban commander near Afghan capital, two months after feting him for backing the country's new order, officials said Sunday.

American troops seized Ghulam Mohammed Hotak in Wardak province, southwest of Kabul, on Saturday, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Zahir Mohammed Azimi.

Mohammed, his brother and one of his nephews were detained "because they have links to the Taliban," Azimi said.

Azimi didn't elaborate, and U.S. military officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

## Beheading video surfaces

CAIRO, Egypt — Images of an American hostage being decapitated surfaced Saturday on an Internet site known for carrying the statements of Islamic militants.

The gruesome videotape appeared three days after U.S. authorities announced the search for the body of Paul M. Johnson Jr. had been called off.

Still photographs of Johnson's beheading had been posted June 19 on some of the same militant Islamic forums that on Saturday provided links to the newly released video footage.

Johnson, a 49-year-old engineer for U.S. defense contractor Lockheed Martin, was kidnapped June 12.

## Militant group claims responsibility

CAIRO, Egypt — A statement purportedly by al-Qaida-linked militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility Saturday for a suicide bombing that killed two people and wounded 47 at the Iraqi National Guard headquarters south of Baghdad.

A statement, signed by the military wing of al-Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad group, said, "one lion of the Martyrs Battalion hit the Iraqi National Guard." The statement surfaced on an Islamic forum on the Internet that frequently carries statements said to be from al-Zarqawi. There was no way to verify its authenticity.

The statement also vowed to continue attacks.

From The Associated Press



# Battle steps up voter registration efforts

By Rick Emert

Stars and Stripes

**BAGHDAD** — This election year, the U.S. military is taking extra steps to give deployed servicemembers the means to cast a vote that counts.

In 2000, many absentee ballots from servicemembers deployed or stationed overseas did not arrive in time to be counted. Now, in post-Sept. 11, 2001, America, with servicemembers fighting terrorism on two fronts, a revamped voting process should ensure that the voices of deployed troops are heard clearly from the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

The Army is taking lessons learned from the 2000 election, and affording soldiers the opportunity to register and get their absentee ballots in earlier, a revamped voting process should ensure that the voices of deployed troops are heard clearly from the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

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2nd Lt. Kyle Missbach

Staff Sgt. Clifford Banta

Staff Sgt. Leigh Toland

## In Afghanistan: 'I vote because I can'

By Jon R. Anderson

Stars and Stripes

**BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan** — The first time Capt. Randall Newman voted was in a fighting position during basic training in 1988.

"I had just turned 18 and guess my parents made sure I was registered," said Randall. A drill sergeant came over to turn during war games and said, "here, fill this out," he said.

Sixteen years later, Newman is now a transportation officer with the Germany-based 21st Theater Support Group deployed in Afghanistan.

He hasn't missed an election yet. And even inside a combat zone, he doesn't intend to start now.

"I guess I see it as an obligation," said Newman, who was already registered before deploying here, but registered again "just to make sure," when his voting officer handed him a registration card.

When asked how he feels so strongly about voting, he struggled for an answer.

As a kid, he said, his parents always made sure they took him along to the local elementary school when they cast their ballots. "They felt very strongly about voting," he said, a sense of civic duty they passed on him.

In a country struggling to register voters for its first elections since the Taliban was ousted almost three years ago, Newman nodded solemnly and said: "I vote because I can."

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state of record or in a state where they have an established residency. Each state has different procedures for how the absentee votes are tallied, Missbach said.

Another step the Army is taking to ensure soldiers are getting the chance to vote comes in the form of a massive census of all soldiers. Army leaders will physically meet with every soldier to verify their name and Social Security number and that they have been given a chance to register and vote, Missbach said. That survey runs Tuesday through Aug. 15.

Yet another check for the 1st Cav included an inspector general's inspection of the division's Voting Assistance Program before it left Fort Hood, Texas, for Iraq, Missbach said.

Finally, Armed Forces Vote Week, from Sept. 3-11, raises

awareness about the absentee ballot election process at installations throughout the Department of Defense, Missbach said.

In Afghanistan, officials staked out dining areas, setting up voting registration booths at entrances where troops line up to eat.

"Most said they had already taken care of registering," said Maj. Bryan Jacobson, the voting registration officer for North Dakota National Guard's 109th Engineer Group, who helped with the effort a few weeks ago.

"A surprising number, however, said 'no thanks, my vote doesn't count.' It was kind of discouraging," he added.

The Army will not — and cannot — track who has registered or voted.

"Every citizen has the right to register and vote if they so

choose, or not to register and vote if they choose," Missbach said. "We don't have any kind of command influence on whether they vote."

All the effort seems to be paying off.

In Afghanistan, hundreds registered with voting assistance officers. Capt. Lindy White was one of them.

"I just got my absentee ballot for the primaries last week," said White, a staff officer for the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division.

Supply specialist Sgt. Alma Lewis, from Houma, La., said she's registered, but plans to boycott the presidential elections.

"I don't like either candidate," Lewis said. "Bush is the reason we're over here, and Kerry hasn't said anything promising at all."

Sgt. Robert Whitney, an Indiana reservist with the 221st Ordnance Company stationed at an outpost along Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, said he intends to register, but hasn't yet.

"I feel strongly about voting, because I want Bush to win," said Whitney.

Some soldiers completed the federal voting postcard before they deployed.

"I have registered to vote in Texas," said Sgt. DeForest Robinson, Headquarters Distribution Company, of the 1st Cav's 115th Forward Support Battalion, in Baghdad. "I fully intend to vote. We're the ones out here on the front line, and we need to have some input on the election."

"I haven't missed an election in 18 years," said Staff Sgt. Leigh Toland, 81st Brigade Combat Team, Logistical Supply Area Anacanda in Balad. "My wife will forward my absentee ballot. Will it count? I think as much as I can, yes."

Staff Sgt. Clifford Banta, also from the 81st, is on his first deployment, but will cast his vote as he does every year.

"If they receive my ballot in time, I don't know why it wouldn't count," Banta said.

Other servicemembers, such as Air Force Capt. Tom Bucci, a Central Criminal Court of Iraq lawyer, are seasoned veterans when it comes to casting absentee votes.

"I'm stationed in Ohio, and vote in Connecticut, so I've voted by absentee ballot for years," Bucci said. "It will be a little bit tough here [because of possible mail delays]. I'm more concerned about the soldiers, Marines and airmen out in the field being able to get their ballots in."

With all of these tools in place to give soldiers an opportunity to vote — even the most remote forward operating base in Iraq has a voting assistance officer — all troops should get the chance, Missbach said.

"I think most soldiers feel that it is important to vote," Missbach said. "In part, that is because of what happened in the last [presidential] election and, in part it is because they are over here fighting for our rights that are so important — like the right to vote."

Jon R. Anderson in Afghanistan contributed to this report.

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# Americans accused of running private jail appear in court

Group claims they had contact with DOD, says they rounded up genuine Taliban, al-Qaida suspects in Afghanistan

By Stephen Graham

The Associated Press

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — Three Americans accused of detaining and abusing Afghans on a freelance search for terrorists appeared in an Afghan court for the first time Sunday, insisting they had contact with the Pentagon, a senior judge said.

The group's leader, a former U.S. soldier called Jonathan K. Idema, acknowledged operating a private jail outside of Afghan law, presiding judge Abdul Basit Bakhtyari said.

But Idema insisted his team had rounded up genuine Taliban and al-Qaida sus-

pects in their makeshift jail until their arrest two weeks ago — and that al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden wanted him dead.

"Bin Laden has half a million dollars on my head," Idema shouted at an Associated Press Television News reporter who tried to film him during the preliminary hearing. The report aired in late 2001.

Afghan authorities have charged the Americans and four Afghan accomplices with hostage-taking and assault for allegedly detaining and abusing 11 men in a house in the capital. They face up to 20 years in jail if convicted.

U.S. and Afghan authorities deny any links to the self-styled task force, describ-

ing them as vigilantes on a personal quest to fight terrorism. The men wore military gear and, like other Afghan police and NATO peacekeepers into thinking they were legitimate.

Idema, a convicted fraudster who is featured in a top-selling book about the war that ousted the Taliban in late 2001, and who has also worked with U.S. television networks, appeared in court Sunday in pressed khaki fatigues.

Abdul Basit Bakhtyari, the presiding judge said the men allegedly tied their detainees' hands, hooded them — and poured cold or boiling water over them during interrogations.

He had no information on allegations that Afghan forces found several prisoners hanging from their feet when they raided the illegal jail.

The defendants acknowledged that they had acted illegally, while insisting they were part of a "struggle against terrorism," Bakhtyari said.

"They said they were a nongovernment group but that contact was established with the Pentagon," Bakhtyari said. He said the three gave no details. "They couldn't provide any evidence."

It remains unclear whether the defendants had picked up innocent Afghans of were on the trail of genuine militants.

# Working out the kinks of life in the war zone

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

**BAGRAM AIR BASE**, Afghanistan — After months at a remote firebase in Afghanistan, Pfc. Mike Lambert has been a little grumpy lately.

To ease his mood, Lambert's buddies bought him an hour alone with a woman from Kyrgyzstan. A woman with strong hands.

Inside a small cubical wall off with heavy blankets, the lights low and music playing softly, Lambert hangs his dusty assault rifle on the wall.

The woman orders him to strip to his shorts and lie down on the narrow table.

Lambert smiles shyly. Welcome to Bagram air base's new Day Spa. Right next door to the base Burger King, which still hasn't opened for business, the Day Spa is one of several popping up on U.S. military installations throughout the Central Asian war zone.

"This is amazing," groans Lambert as the masseuse goes to work, kneading his back like so much Play-doh. "I never thought I'd get something like this in the combat zone."



**SpC. Christopher Cashell, a mechanic with 25th Infantry Division's Aviation Brigade, enjoys a combat-zone rubdown.**

The spas are the brainchild of a South Korean businessman and were set up through a military contract. The first opened at the U.S. air hub at Kyrgyzstan last year. Since then, spas have been opened at U.S. installations in Uzbekistan, Kabul and now

Bagram.

The waiting lists sometimes five days long, the Day Spa and its dozen masseuses have quickly become one of Bagram's biggest morale boosters since opening in April.

Fifteen dollars buys an hour-long, full-body massage. Add \$5 and American's front-line warriors in the fight against terror can get a facial as well.

A very popular half-day special, says manager Nazira Isenbaeva, is a full body rubdown, a manicure, pedicure and body wax. The price: \$40.

"They leave feeling very relaxed," says Isenbaeva, adding the male soldiers can't get the bikini wax, "only the back wax."

And just in case troops might confuse the services being offered at the spa for more infamous war-zone stress busters from wars gone by, a conspicuous sign right next to the cash register offers the following warning: Anyone soliciting any sexual or indecent services/acts are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"They're very professional," says Master Sgt. Terri Bly, a regular customer at the spa.

"It's a nice atmosphere. They



**PHOTOS BY JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes**

**Pfc. Mike Lambert, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, says a full-body rubdown at Bagram air base in Afghanistan was just the ticket to cure his combat-zone grumpiness.**

really know what they're doing."

Assigned to the 325th Combat Support Hospital, Bly says an hour-long rubdown was just the ticket after a particularly brutal run on July 4th.

"I was really sore," she says. "It was exactly what I needed. I kept saying 'Thank you!' It felt so good."

"When I was first told about this place, I thought they were joking," said SpC. Christopher Cashell. "It's crazy. This is not the kind of place I thought I find in combat zone. Not on base, anyway."

But he's very glad it is. A mechanic for the 25th Infantry Divi-

sion's Aviation Brigade, Cashell is here for his first visit since it opened a few months ago.

"I try to come here on my rest day," says Cashell. "We're not supposed to say 'day off' because we're really on duty 24/7 over here, so we say 'reset day' instead. But coming here is as close to a day off as you'll ever see."

Back on the table, Lambert's expression is one of complete bliss as the masseuse works her way down his body.

"Oh my God, this is great," he says. "I am definitely coming back."

E-mail Jon Anderson at: andersonj@mail.strips.osd.mil

## Iran says 9/11 hijackers may have entered nation

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

**See related stories on Page 10**

**TEHRAN, Iran** — Iran said Sunday some al-Qaida operatives blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks may have illegally passed through Iran from Afghanistan months before striking in America but dismissed as "fabrications" U.S. reports that Tehran may have facilitated the 2001 attacks.

"It's normal that five or six people may have crossed the border within a couple of months without our knowledge. Our borders are long and it's not possible to fully control them," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters.

Asefi was responding to a September 11 Commission report, expected Thursday, that says Iran may have facilitated the 2001 attacks in the United States by providing eight to 10 al-Qaida hijackers with safe passage to and from terrorist training camps in Afghanistan.

"Even more people may (illegally) cross the border between Mexico and the United States," he said.

The Iranian spokesman said possible crossings through Iran happened months before the Sept. 11 attacks but Iran has since increased border security.

"Who knew Sept. 11 was going to happen?" Asefi told reporters.

John McLaughlin, the CIA's acting director, said Sunday it was known for some time that hijackers passed through Iran but he would not implicate the Iranian government.

"We have no evidence that there is some sort of official connection between Iran and 9/11," he said on "Fox News Sunday" program.

Iran insists it has made a significant contribution to the war on terror by arresting agents of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, but the United States accuses Tehran of harboring — not cracking down on — al-Qaida fugitives.

Tehran also complains that instead of rewarding Tehran, President Bush included Iran in the list of his "axis of evil" partners together with North Korea and prewar Iraq under Saddam Hussein.

Asefi said Iran will remain committed to fighting al-Qaida. He said Iran was not surprised by the U.S. allegations.

"The more we approach the (U.S.) presidential elections, we will witness more of such news fabrications," he said.

## Recent reports lend support to once-repudiated prewar claim

BY KEN GUGGENHEIM

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — It was one of the first signs that the intelligence used to go to war in Iraq was wrong: White House repudiation of 16 words in last year's State of the Union speech that had suggested Saddam Hussein tried to buy uranium in Africa.

Yet even as two recent reports sharply criticized prewar intelligence, they also suggested President Bush's claim may not have been totally off-base.

A British report concluded that Bush's statement and a similar one by Prime Minister Tony Blair were "well-founded." In his speech, Bush had attributed the uranium claim to the British government.

A Senate Intelligence Committee report found inadequate evidence that deposed Iraqi President Saddam had been rebuilding his nuclear weapons program. It cited various reports, however, that Iraq had sought uranium in Africa. Thus, although Bush cited only British evidence that was determined to have been inconclusive, other intelligence files clearly contained other inconclusive evidence of the truth of the claim.

The committee chairman, Sen. Pat Roberts, said he believed last year that the White House was correct in repudiating the uranium claim.

"Now I don't know whether it's accurate or not. That's the whole question," Roberts, R-Kan., said in an interview.

The White House's repudiation came after The New York Times published an op-ed column by former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, who was sent by the CIA to Niger to determine if Iraq had been acquiring uranium. Wilson said it was unlikely any uranium transaction had taken place and the administration appeared to have been manipulating the intelligence.

Republicans said Wilson was trying to boost Democrats' presidential campaign and looked to discredit him and his mission.

*Although Bush cited only British documents that later proved to have been forged, intelligence files clearly contained other evidence of the truth of the claim (that Iraq had sought uranium in Africa).*

In an addendum to the report, Roberts and two other Republicans accused Wilson of providing "inaccurate, unsubstantiated and misleading" information. In a letter to committee leaders Thursday, Wilson said a thorough reading of the report supports his public comments.

The CIA's acting director, John E. McLaughlin, told "Fox News Sunday," "I think there's some debate about what his report said or didn't say. I just don't want to take a position on it."

Bush, in his State of the Union address on Jan. 28, 2003, used the uranium intelligence to help make the case that Saddam was pursuing nuclear weapons. "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa," he said.

That claim came under scrutiny after the International Atomic Energy Agency determined that documents purportedly showing Iraq buying uranium from Niger were fake. The British have maintain consistently that their intelligence was not based on the forged documents.

But the Senate committee disclosed other intelligence suggesting that Iraq was pursuing uranium.

# No good clues to solving gas price puzzle



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Mische fills his car in December at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service gas station in Lincoln Village military family housing in Darmstadt, Germany. AAFES gas prices have long been a contentious issue among servicemembers. Exchange officials say they can explain how it sets those prices, but warn it's not a simple formula.

## AAFES officials say cost determination is complicated

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

**T**he exchange petrol pricing policy can make a puzzle fan abandon cross-words.

In July, prices charged by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in the Netherlands plunged by as much as 19 cents a gallon. At the same time, gas prices went up in Britain and Germany.

AAFES officials say gas prices in all three countries are tied to U.S. fuel prices, which went down in July.

For fuel customers, or cross-word fans, it can equate to a four-letter word starting with "W" and exclaimed in confusion.

"Everyone's always saying, 'What's up with the gas?' And AAFES never really gives a straight answer," said 1st Lt. Scott Spahr, an Army personnel and supply officer in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Exchange officials say they can explain it to customers such as Spahr, but it's not simple.

Exchanges in those three countries sell gas or redeemable coupons at prices reset each month to mirror U.S. trends. But hitting that target price is more of a goal than a reality, according to AAFES, because buying fuel from several sources abroad makes hitting a uniform price impossible.

In the case of the Netherlands, a drop in wholesale costs meant a drop in AAFES retail prices — de-

spite retail costs rising at some other posts in Europe, according to Maj. David Accetta, spokesman for AAFES Europe.

According to the European Road Information Center, gas in the Netherlands was the most expensive in the European Union last month. But AAFES actually sold gas in the Netherlands at its "floor price" — in other words, without a profit — to give customers in the Netherlands some relief. Prices the exchange charges there are still approximately the same or higher on most grades compared to Germany and Britain.

Though the exchange attempts to mirror U.S. Energy Department averages, prices still vary from it. Prices can also deviate if the AAFES command- Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, manipulates them to keep them lower.

She did so in May and June but not in July, which contributed to hikes seen in Britain and Germany.

### Fuel on the fire

Not everyone is affected by these monthly adjustments.

In the three previously mentioned nations, prices in some countries, such as Turkey, are set annually, meaning the price remains the same for 12 months.

And although coupons are sold at AAFES or Navy Exchange stores in Italy and Spain, the prices are set by a U.S. Navy contract. In any case, gas comes from local suppliers, meaning prices can fluctuate from country to country. And to make matters worse of a migraine, they fluctuate independently of the U.S. averages.

The exchange's July decrease in price in one country while raising prices in two others would be throw fuel on the fire for those who criticize AAFES pricing.

Exchange prices in Britain, Germany and the Netherlands are adjusted by looking out the rearview mirror: Prices are adjusted based on the previous four or five week's selling price of gas in the United States.

That means prices in the States can go down, while AAFES prices go up at same month. The reverse is also true.

The system angers Jim Crook, a customer in Hanau, Germany.

"AAFES gets gas from gas vendors here in Germany and many other neighboring countries, not the States," Crook wrote in a letter to Stars and Stripes. "So why does AAFES always want to raise its gas prices because the States raise their gas prices? If Germany or the countries from which AAFES gets its gas from raise the price, I could understand about a

price hike."

Accetta said attempts to reflect U.S. prices began in 2001 after customer complaints. The exchange changed had based its prices on a model that more closely followed normal supply-and-demand economic trends.

Nonetheless, commuting troops ask: The exchange price may be cheaper than European retail, but why does it still have to be so much? And who gets this money and why?

Spahr decided to spar. He wanted an explanation as to how much AAFES paid for its own gas, so he filed a Freedom of Information Act request.

He found out that during the month of May, the exchange charged from 78 cents to 91 cents above the raw cost it paid for fuel in Germany. A similar request made by this newspaper in 2001 — before the exchange attempted to follow Energy Department trends — showed the exchange previously added about \$1 to the base cost per gallon.

According to data supplied to Stars last year, on a representative month when AAFES purchased gas for \$1.02 per gallon in Germany, had dispensing costs of 20 cents per gallon and sold the gas for \$1.70 per gallon, the result was a profit of about 48 cents.

"I just think the numbers are staggering," Spahr said.

### Helping MWR

The exchange counters that it exists to do two things: Offer goods and services at low prices, and to make money for Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

"It's a congressional directive," Accetta said. "We just can't say we're going to lower our gas prices to make our customers happy, then give MWR \$3 million instead of \$16 million."

Some soldiers still wonder about the purpose of the profit.

"They always say it's going to MWR, but I don't know where," Spahr said, "That's not tangible to me."

That money goes into the general MWR fund, according to Millie Waters, a spokeswoman for the Army's Installation Management Agency in Europe. The money that goes into MWR goes toward things such as golf courses, libraries, sports and recreations facilities, do-it-yourself automotive centers, arts and crafts shops, and leisure travel services.

Exchange critics also complain that AAFES does not pay the gas taxes that help set U.S. prices; therefore, its retail price should be lower.

SEE GAS ON PAGE 8

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support

★ Randy See - We love you and think of you every day. Please tell everyone in your unit how proud we are of all of them and THANK YOU for all that you are doing for our country. May God Bless all of you & keep you safe - until we see your smiling face again. Love, Mom & Dad & Jon

★ You young men and women are doing a great job! Just want you know this is one grandma who is proud of you each and everyone of you. I am praying for you and your families who are home. God bless you all. Thelma

★ Chris Vinson, I'm so proud of you and the way you're fighting for our country. I know I didn't want you to leave but I can't think of a better reason than freedom for us to be apart. Stay strong, keep fighting no matter what, come back safe. You're my hero. Lav Always, -Charla

★ I was looking at the paper the other day and saw a picture of a soldier. I thought of how I would feel if that one of my boys fighting (my boys are too old

and my heart just went out to all of you who are fighting for freedom. I keep you and President Bush in my daily prayers. Thank you all for what you are doing and for the sacrifices you are making.

★ In the words of St. Paul, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Thank you, whoever you are, for putting your life on the line for the sake of America and for the sake of the Iraqi people. May God protect and keep you until you are safely returned home to your loved ones. Peace and blessings...Jan Herrick

★ Dear Men and Women of the Armed forces, Thank you for all your hard work. I realize from the news what off conditions you are all under. My church has started a daily prayer line for all of you, and my neighborhood have been flying our country's flag with pride. Please be very careful over there. We all look forward to your safe and speedy return home. Know that we are all praying for you daily and that we wish you all the very best. Again thanks for all your hard work. Sincerely, PK

# Gas: It's a complex pricing formula

GAS, FROM PAGE 7

In a sense, the money the exchange makes on gas — and everything else — can be seen as both its profit and its tax: It pays for MWR and also subsidizes stores that aren't as profitable to keep costs down for troops deployed to Iraq, Kosovo and other areas. The money the exchange charges, Accetta said, includes the cost of its products and services; capital improvements like the new mini-mall that opened in Aviano, Italy, this month; and earnings for MWR.

All told, 63 percent of AAFES's total earnings from the sale of shoes, shirts, DVDs, fuel and other items go toward MWR programs. Last fiscal year that worked out to \$11.8 million for U.S. Army Europe, and \$5.5 million for U.S. Army Forces in Europe, according to AAFES.

Accetta also said that earnings from profitable stores help keep prices down in places such as Iraq.

"It's so much more expensive to move merchandise there, and to pay all the extra costs," Accetta said. "The numbers don't always add up to give AAFES a profit."

Exchange employees volunteer for six-month or one-year terms in hazardous duty areas. Accetta said all of that makes AAFES different from a corporate department store.

"It's not a privately held company, it's an authorized DOD entity. There's no corporate stock fund, there's no multimillion dollar stock options. We don't pay dividends to stockholders."

Despite that, whenever gas prices rise, American blood boils. Nellie Ramirez, an Army wife who recently filled up at an AAFES station in Darmstadt, Germany, may be an exception by circumstance.

"It doesn't bother me, because I need the gas," she said. "She doesn't drive many miles. She lives on base. She drives only to shop for groceries, to pick up her children from school and to run errands."

But others, like Spahr, demand decimals and data.

"If that's the way it is, that's the way it is," Spahr said. "But it'd be nice to get the information out of ..."

"I know in the civilian world that always raised questions. 'Wow, Errol and everything. I'd like to think that AAFES is above reproach, and I'm sure that they are. And the money does go to good things.'"

E-mail Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.strips.com



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

German navy Pvt. Benjamin Behsler, center, demonstrates proper cleaning techniques on a German G-36 automatic weapon to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Elvin Arroyo, right, and German Army Sgt. Maj. Bernd Heinrich at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. Arroyo is coordinator of Landstuhl's German-American Partnership Program, and Heinrich is his German counterpart.

# GI helps others take shot at badges

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

**LANDSTUHL, Germany** — For the past five years, Army Staff Sgt. Elvin Arroyo has helped soldiers earn something they can't get anywhere else in the world.

Arroyo is coordinator of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's German-American Partnership Program. He helps Americans get German sports badges, and for military members, their German marksmanship badge.

This year, Arroyo and his counterpart, German Reserves Forces Sgt. Maj. Bernd Heinrich, helped 59 people earn the sports badge, or German Proficiency Badge, and 56 earn the marksmanship badge, called the *Schützenschnur*. Since 1999, about 750 soldiers have earned the badges, Arroyo said.

Helping Americans participate is a big job for Arroyo — which he does entirely on his own time.

"I get about 100 e-mails every day from people asking me how to get involved in the program," said Arroyo, 33, of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

He volunteers because he likes to give back to the community. Plus, the badges are something U.S. troops won't find at their next duty station, he said.

"It's unique being assigned in

Europe," Arroyo said. When he sees soldiers with the badge on their uniforms, he knows that he helped them earn it, and that's gratifying.

"The e-mails from colonels to privates thanking me for the opportunity are recognition enough and good reminders that I made a difference," Arroyo said.

To get the marksmanship badge, a U.S. troop has to fire with unfamiliar guns, such as the German MG-3 machine gun, the MG-38 rifle or the P-8 — a 9 mm pistol — with a certain degree of accuracy.

To get the sports badge, which also is open to civilians, soldiers have to complete running, swimming, shot-putting, ruck marching and long-jumping events.

Arroyo spends his weekdays working as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the chemistry section at Landstuhl's pathology department.

Lt. Col. Donald Tailon, a clinical pathologist at Landstuhl, earned his badges last year.

He credits Arroyo with allowing him to participate in an event that helped elucidate German culture.

"A lot goes on behind the scenes and Sgt. Arroyo works hard to coordinate things," Tailon said. "I just think it was a really good opportunity and a chance to experience German military life."

Arroyo earned his own badge in 1999, shortly after moving to Germany. He took over as coordinator in 2002 after the former coordinator changed duty stations.

Between January and July, when the program finishes, Arroyo spends most Saturdays and Sundays on the program. His wife, Amber, a Department of Defense civilian worker, and their four children, including 18-month-old twins, often come out to the walk along the ruck march trail.

"The night before one event his wife had the twins and even

though he had been up the whole night, the next day he went out and supported the U.S. soldiers," Heinrich said.

"He does a great job, you know. He's like that slogan you have: Not for self but for others."

Heinrich has been helping coordinate the events for 15 years. Arroyo says he couldn't have done it without Heinrich.

Unfortunately, the Arroyo-Heinrich partnership is about to go on hiatus. Both said they need a break, so after all the awards are compiled from this year's events, they will leave the planning to others. Neither knows whether a replacement is forthcoming.

"Maybe someone will feel it," if the tournaments end, Heinrich said.

Tailon, for one, said he expected that would happen. He hopes the program will continue, with new coordinators.

"Someone's got to step up," he said.

E-mail Marni McEntee at: mcentee@mail.strips.com

## Stripes Spotlight

**Army Staff Sgt. Elvin Arroyo**

Arroyo coordinates the Landstuhl German-American Partnership Program, which helps troops earn German sports and marksmanship badges.

**Job:** Noncommissioned officer in charge of the chemistry section of Landstuhl's pathology department.

**Age:** 33

**Family:** Wife, Amber, and children Christian, 11, Caleb, 4, and twins Cristina and Cailey, 18 months

**Hometown:** Ponce, Puerto Rico

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## Messages of Support

★ I'm a preschool teacher in Ohio and I just wanted to let you know that my class is thankful for what you and your families are going through to keep us safe. Everyday I have my class say the pledge and we talk about how men and women who have never even met them love them enough to risk their lives to keep them safe. I've explained to them that if not for you they could not go outside to play or eat at mc donalds or lots of other everyday things they do. So from the mouths of babes THANK YOU!!! Amy N. Fox

★ Justin I love you, and I am so proud of all that you have done, and will do! You are the best husband, and I love you very much! Stay safe, keep healthy, and come home soon so we can see Saige!!! All my love, Jennifer

★ My Brother-in-law D. Toffe is over there and I would like to put a message in to tell him we love him and please be careful. T.D. Toffe L. Toffe

## Georgia training to end

**MOSCOW** — The last of a group of U.S. military personnel training Georgian forces in anti-terrorism tactics will leave Georgia by the end of the summer, the U.S. ambassador to Russia said Friday.

The United States deployed between 80 to 100 military trainers to Georgia to help the former Soviet republic cope with fighters in its lawless Pankisi Gorge. The United States said the fighters were linked to the al-Qaida terror network.

From The Associated Press



# Accused U.S. Army deserter now in Japan

## Health problems may delay any U.S. action

BY JOSEPH COLEMAN  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Gripping a cane and looking haggard, an American accused of deserting from the U.S. Army and defecting to North Korea arrived in Japan on Sunday and was immediately hospitalized, putting himself within the reach of U.S. authorities for the first time in 39 years.

Charles Jenkins, who vanished from his platoon in 1965 and later played devilish American characters in communist propaganda films, faces possible U.S. military prosecution on desertion and other charges in Japan, although American officials suggest they will delay taking him into custody.

Jenkins' arrival, broadcast live by Japanese TV networks, came amid a wave of public sympathy in Japan over the plight of his Japanese wife, Hitomi Soga, who married him after she was kidnapped in Japan by North Korean agents in 1978 and taken to the communist country. They have two daughters.

The family arrived on a Japanese government-chartered flight from Jakarta, Indonesia, where they held an emotional reunion



Accused U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins and his Japanese wife, Hitomi Soga, arrive Sunday at Tokyo's Haneda International Airport. Behind them is their daughter Mika.

after nearly two years of separation. Soga returned to Japan from North Korea with four other abductees in 2002, but Jenkins stayed behind with their daughters for fear of U.S. prosecution.

Japanese and American officials say Jenkins, 64, is in dire need of medical attention following an abdominal operation in

North Korea and other health problems.

On arrival in Tokyo, he stepped painfully down the stairs to the tarmac, clutching his cane as Soga supported him. When someone shouted to ask him how he felt, he shook his head sadly as he limped to a bus that took the family to a hospital.

The Japanese government, eager to reunite Soga's family, has pushed for U.S. clemency for the North Carolina native, and stood by its position on Sunday that Jenkins' health should take priority over his legal problems.

"The Japanese government will provide all the necessary support so Mr. Jenkins can concentrate on his medical treatment for now," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda.

The United States has maintained its right to pursue a case against Jenkins. He was never officially discharged from the military, and is subject to U.S. military authorities under an agreement between the United States and Japan, where some 50,000 U.S. troops are based.

But American officials, including U.S. Ambassador Howard Baker, have said in recent days that they are sympathetic to Jenkins' health troubles. Baker met with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi on Saturday and said U.S. custody could be delayed.

Japanese officials say the United States had not yet officially asked to apprehend him.

"I think they are still a bit nervous, but they seem to have given," Kyoko Nakayama, the government's envoy for the North Korean abduction issue, said of Jenkins' family.



Maj. Gen. Charles W. Sweeney

## Nagasaki A-bomb pilot dies

The Associated Press

MILTON, Massachusetts — Charles W. Sweeney, a retired Air Force major general who piloted the plane that dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki in the final days of World War II, has died at age 84.

Sweeney died Thursday at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, hospital spokeswoman Christine Johanson said. She did not disclose the cause of death. Sweeney was 25 when he piloted the B-29 bomber that attacked Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, three days after the Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima and six days before Japan surrendered.

About 70,000 people were killed in the explosion of the bomb, dubbed "Fat Man." It was the first bomb Sweeney ever dropped on an enemy target.

Sweeney was an outspoken defender of the bombings, appearing on CNN and speaking at colleges and universities.

Sweeney wrote a book, "War's End: An Eyewitness Account of America's Last Atomic Mission," to counter what he considered "cockamamie theories" that the bombings were unnecessary.

"I looked upon it as a duty. I just wanted the war to be over, so we could get back home to our loved ones," Sweeney told The Patriot Ledger of Quincy in 1995. "I hope my missions were the last ones of their kind that will ever be flown."

His B-29, the Cock's Ark, is not as well-known as the Enola Gay, although the bombing was harrowing for the crew. The flight had fuel problems from the start, and clouds and smoke were covering the mission's primary target, the city of Kokura.

After making several dangerous passes over the city, Sweeney abandoned the primary target for Nagasaki. Only a burst in the clouds allowed the bomb to be dropped, Sweeney said.

Sweeney became a brigadier general in 1956, and at the time was the youngest man in the Air Force to reach that rank. He retired in 1976.

# Fleet Forces Command deputy retires

## Vice admiral known as 'Big Al, the sailor's pal'

BY SONJA BARISIC  
The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — On his third day at the U.S. Naval Academy, Al Koneztni Jr. was asked to put down his "home of record" on a form.

Whether he was unfamiliar with the term or just miserably homesick, the New York City native decided to give the same answer as the person seated next to him: Miami Beach, Fla.

An upper classman spotted what he had done and proclaimed to the 1,000 students gathered in

the mess hall: "Well, gentlemen of the class of 1966, we have our first 'zero' — meaning Koneztni was 'dumber than a box of rocks.'"

After 38 years of active duty, Koneztni retired Friday as a three-star vice admiral and deputy commander of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet, with a celebrity — broadcaster Larry King — lined up to speak at the ceremony.

Rear Adm. Kevin J. Cosgriff relieves Koneztni.

During his career, Koneztni became a submariner and rose

through the ranks, eventually heading to Hawaii to become commander of the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force. In 2001, he came to Norfolk, where he bore much of the responsibility for more than 150 ships, nearly 1,200 aircraft, 18 major shore installations and 129,000 people during the war on terrorism.

Along the way, he earned the admiration of many sailors and a very different kind of nickname, "Big Al, the Sailor's Pal."

But he never forgot how much it hurt to be called "Zero" during his academy days. He became determined not to drop out, as the guy marked "Zero" the year before him had done; in fact, Koneztni graduated with merit. The experience also made him wonder what happened to others who were hazed and left — and strengthened his resolve to make things better for others.

"It always hit me, that loss of humanity," Koneztni, 59, said in an interview in his office. "Because perhaps if we had worked harder with them, helped them out, talked with them ... we may



Vice Adm. Al Koneztni Jr.

very well have been able to engender a mature individual who really got on to bigger and better things."

Koneztni carried that memory with him when he tackled the problem of high attrition among young sailors in the Pacific submarine fleet. The fleet was losing 25 percent of its sailors a year.

Determined to change the culture, Koneztni told commanders he would hold them responsible for keeping their sailors in the service. He also reduced working hours for sub crews while in port.

Attrition fell to 7 percent, and the Navy incorporated Koneztni's program as a model.

In Norfolk, as much of the Atlantic Fleet surged to fight in the Iraq war, Koneztni helped the chief of naval operations rethink how the Navy deploys. He is credited with being the principal engineer of the Navy's Fleet Response Plan.

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## IN THE STATES

## 9/11 panel wants U.S. intelligence revamped

## Report faults White House, Congress, government for terror attacks and aftermath

BY DAN EGGEN  
AND STEVE COLL  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The final report of the commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks recommends a major restructuring of the nation's intelligence community and includes broad criticism of the White House, Congress and other parts of the U.S. government for failing to detect, thwart and better respond to the deadly hijackings, according to panel members and other officials.

The book-length report — being readied for public release on Thursday — has been endorsed by all 10 of the bipartisan panel's members. It features many of the findings that emerged from public hearings and staff investigations, including the conclusion that al-Qaida and Iraq did not form a close working relationship, commission officials said.

But the final report goes beyond the detailed findings of the commission's staff, scolding Congress for poor oversight of the nation's counterterrorism efforts and urging specific and dramatic reforms that include creation of a powerful national counterterror-

ism center, according to administration officials and those involved in drafting the document. The new center would have far greater authority than the Terrorist Threat Integration Center opened by the CIA last year, officials said.



Kean

The report also recommends a Cabinet-level office and director to oversee the CIA, FBI and other intelligence agencies, as the New York Times reported Saturday, but one official familiar with the report said that was only part of a broader reorganization aimed at shaking up the intelligence community.

The five Republicans and five Democrats on the commission have jointly agreed not to discuss details of their recommendations before the report is released.

The proposals follow two reports by the House and Senate intelligence committees that faulted the government's intelligence gathering, particularly at the CIA, and came amid a flurry of

legislative proposals to remake the intelligence community.

The report caps a remarkable 20-month investigation in which the independent commission — created amid acrimony by Congress and initially opposed by President Bush — gained unprecedented access to closely held presidential briefings, transcripts of interrogations of high-level al-Qaida leaders and tens of thousands of pages of other classified material. The panel also privately interviewed Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and their predecessors, Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

Through 17 detailed statements assembled by its staff and released this year, the commission has already dramatically altered the public understanding of how 19 al-Qaida hijackers were able to carry off the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history. The commission revealed, for example, previously unknown conflicts among al-Qaida's leaders and the hijackers, and told of a plot originally intended to involve 10 aircraft in an assault on the East and West coasts.

The panel has been racing over the past three weeks to finalize

the report so that it could be released before a July 26 statutory deadline, the same day the Democratic Party's national convention opens. Commission officials feared that issuing the report that

**“The report that we will issue [this] week is a commission product and has been very carefully examined by the commissioners, line by line. ....”**

Lee Hamilton

a former Democratic congressman from Indiana and vice chairman of commission

day could have opened the panel to political attacks. Nearly 600 pages long, the findings will be available through bookstores, the Internet and the Government Printing Office.

Commissioners interviewed last week said the entire panel was involved in drafting and editing the findings, and reached agreement on how to address some of the most politically sensi-

tive topics. As late as Saturday, officials said, the report was still being edited, and the panel continued wrestling with White House lawyers over classification issues.

“The staff statements were genuinely the work of the staff,” said Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton, a former Democratic congressman from Indiana. “The report that we will issue [this] week is a commission product and has been very carefully examined by the commissioners, line by line. ... There are certain topics in the report that were not touched on in the staff statements.”

Several commissioners said the resulting report was not compromised by the desire of Hamilton, Chairman Thomas Kean, a Republican, and others on the panel to reach unanimity.

“We had not pulled any punches,” said commissioner Timothy Roemer, a former Democratic congressman from Indiana. “We will have dynamic structural changes and a dramatic moving of the boxes to better reflect moving from a Cold War to a hot jihad threat, but it’s also important to keep your eye on trademark and nuts and bolts.”

## CIA's acting director opposed to commission's proposal

BY JENNIFER C. KERR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rejecting a recommendation expected this week from the Sept. 11 commission, the CIA's acting director said Sunday a new national intelligence chief is unnecessary and that intelligence agencies have made changes since the 2001 attacks to better protect the country.

John McLaughlin said “a good argument can be made” for a Cabinet-level position

to oversee the nation's 15 intelligence agencies and control their budgets.

But, he added, “It doesn't relate particularly to the world I live in. I see the director of Central Intelligence as someone who is able to do that and is empowered to do so under the National Security Act of 1947.”

McLaughlin, who took over at the CIA when Director George Tenet left on July 11, also said the agency has disrupted a number of al-Qaida plots to mount attacks by air, sea and other methods in the United States.

“It's important to remember here that for these people, an attack in the United States is the brass ring,” he told “Fox News Sunday.”

The new post would represent the most drastic step in structuring the intelligence agencies since the CIA was created after World War II.

“With some modest changes in the way the CIA is set up, the director of Central Intelligence could carry out that function well and appropriately,” McLaughlin said.

The CIA director now has loose authority over those agencies.

But the commission in a preliminary report found that the director did not hold enough power because the Pentagon controls more than 80 percent of the nation's intelligence budget. As such, CIA requests to other agencies are often ignored.

The commission's final report, expected to be released Thursday, will highlight intelligence failures by the CIA and the FBI that enabled the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to occur.

## Nevada fires nearly contained

BY TOM GARDNER

The Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Fire crews began heading home Sunday as an erratic fire that destroyed at least 15 homes and briefly threatened the governor's mansion in the state capital was declared nearly contained.

“They're getting a very good handle on it,” fire information officer Mark Struble said Saturday. “If we can hold these lines for another 24 hours, it'll be very, very good.”

The wind-driven fire, which blackened nearly 7,600 acres



**Brunner Fire Suppression Team members out of Chilcoot, Calif., work to eliminate hot spots in the hills above the Lakeview Housing development in Carson City, Nev., on Saturday.**

RENO (NAP)  
GAZZETTE/NEW

along a 4-mile stretch of the Sierra foothills, was 85 percent contained late Saturday. At one point, it had moved within one-half mile of the governor's mansion.

Fire officials said the blaze could be fully contained by Tuesday with good weather.

Meanwhile, officials broadened their investigation of the fire's cause. They initially said they sus-

pected the blaze was started by teenagers in Kings Canyon the day before the fire erupted Wednesday, but said Saturday the fire could have started last weekend and smoldered undetected for days.

At its peak, roughly 1,900 firefighters were on the line, assisted by more than 120 engines, 16 bulldozers and 26 aircraft including three large air tankers.

## Security lapse causes Los Alamos shutdown

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Los Alamos National Laboratory director, tired of security lapses at the northern New Mexico lab, has brought nearly all work there to a standstill and is calling scowling “cowboys” out for a final shutdown.

Pete Namos took the unprecedented step Friday of broadening a stand-down of classified work to include all lab activities.

“We are doing this as part of an effort to ensure this laboratory operates safely and meets our national security obligations,” Namos said in a memo to all employees.

He said there will be exceptions to his order, so that critical

missions and essential national security functions continue unabated.

Namos made the announcement a day after the University of California, which manages the lab for the Department of Energy, ordered him to halt classified work at the lab. The action followed a security lapse last week in which two electronic data storage devices turned up missing.

Namos blamed “cowboys” who are disobeying rules on the handling of sensitive material. “I don't care how many people I have to fire to make it stop,” he said.

“If you think the rules are silly, if you think compliance is a joke, please resign now and save me the trouble,” he said.

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# Study: Drug delays onset of Alzheimer's in memory-impaired

BY MALCOLM RITTER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — People with a common memory disorder that often leads to Alzheimer's disease may be able to briefly delay that fate by taking a drug normally prescribed for Alzheimer's, a new study indicates.

But ultimately the drug Aripicept doesn't cut the risk of getting the feared illness, despite an average delay of six months.

The lead author of the study, Dr. Ronald Petersen of the Mayo Clinic, said it was too early to make any recommendations for doctors and patients. He called the new results "a foot in the door" to finding more effective treatments.

The same study found no effect from vitamin E, long viewed as a possible weapon against Alzheimer's.

The experiment is the first to show that Alzheimer's can be delayed in people with the memory disorder called mild cognitive impairment, Petersen said. So researchers might be able to find other treatments that will produce more than the "modest" effect of Aripicept, he said.

MCI may be at least as common as Alzheimer's, which afflicts some 4 million Americans. Petersen said it might appear in some 18 percent to 20 percent of people older than 65 who do not have Alzheimer's or other dementia. Most of these people go on to develop Alzheimer's, with about 10 percent to 15 percent receiving an Alzheimer's diagnosis each year, Petersen said.

People with MCI are more forgetful than normal for their age. They repeatedly forget impor-

tant things such as luncheon engagements and golfing dates, often enough that friends and family notice the problem. But they don't show other symptoms of Alzheimer's like impaired judgment or reasoning.

Petersen spoke in a telephone interview before presenting the study results Sunday in Philadelphia at the Ninth International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders.

The study was financed by the federal government and the two companies that co-market Aripicept in the United States, Pfizer Inc. and Eisai Inc. DSM International Products donated vitamin E.

The research included 769 MCI patients who took Aripicept, vitamin E or a placebo pill daily. Those taking Aripicept had a lower risk of developing Alzheimer's than patients on placebo did for the first 18 months of the study, but the difference evaporated in the following 18 months.

The patients on Aripicept who ultimately developed Alzheimer's disease took an average of 22 months to do so, about six months longer than patients on a placebo.

Bill Thies, vice president for medical and scientific affairs of the Alzheimer's Association, said vitamin E "is used by almost anyone who's worried about Alzheimer's disease," whether because of a family history or a sense of slipping memory, and users will probably continue to take it despite the study's finding.

As for the evidence that Aripicept can delay the transition from MCI to Alzheimer's, "I suspect there will be a lot of people interested in that" among doctors, patients and families, Thies said.



Team practices recently for the Texas Water Safari near Fentress, Texas. The event, which organizers bill as "The World's Toughest Canoe Race," is a 260-mile river paddle from San Marcos to the Gulf coast.

## 'Never let the boat stop' Texas canoe race is all pain, but some gain

BY T.A. BADGER  
The Associated Press

FENTRESS, Texas — The Texas Water Safari bills itself as "The World's Toughest Canoe Race," and judging from the long list of hazards that awaited the competitors over the weekend, that boating boast could well be the truth.

Start with the physical demands of paddling 260 river miles from San Marcos to the Gulf coast, dodging stumps, rocks, logjams and low-hanging tree branches.

Add the sapping South Texas summertime heat, blasting head winds and sleep deprivation.

Then there's the critters. Alligators, sharks, stingrays and fire ants make homes along the race course, and every boat has to carry a snakebite kit in case a pudler winds up on the business end of a water moccasin or copperhead.

And the big payoff for those who overcome these challenges and make it to the saltwater finish line at Seadrift on San Antonio Bay? "You get a T-shirt, a pat on the back and a meal at the end," said longtime racer Allen Spelce of Austin, this year's race director.

Meager rewards indeed, but they're apparently enough for the hundreds of paddlers who each

paid \$75 to test their mettle in this 42nd annual race, which was postponed twice this summer because heavy rains made conditions too dangerous.

More than 120 boats, with teams ranging from one to seven paddlers, were to head downstream Saturday on the San Marcos River, which flows into the Guadalupe at Gonzales. The first boat was expected to arrive in Seadrift by Sunday night.

"It will change you if you finish that race," said John Bugge, a 53-year-old plumbing contractor from College Station who will try to finish for the 27th time in 28 attempts, this year in a boat by himself.

Veterans agree that, while the race is extremely physical, mental discipline is what separates the winners from the also-rans. "At some point your body is going to die on you," said Lee Deviney, 43, chief financial officer for the Texas Lottery Commission and five-time Safari competitor. "You have to will yourself to finish."

Racers also have to deal with dehydration from the heat and prolonged exertion, and the lack of sleep can lead to hallucinations.

"I've been in a boat where all three guys saw two fishermen ahead on the riverbank, and when we got there it was just logs," said Bugge.

The Safari's top teams go non-stop for 36 hours or more. Eating, drinking, napping and all other necessities are done on the move.

"The goal is to never let the boat stop," said Bugge, whose target time is 45 hours.

The Texas Water Safari has just a few major rules: only human-powered propulsion, no outside help except for supplying water and ice, littering gets you kicked out of the race, and no interfering with other teams.

Ten official checkpoints are spread along the course.

Teams have to reach each checkpoint within a certain time or face disqualification. The cut-off for finishing the race is 100 hours.

John Dunn, a fire-ant scientist at the University of Texas in Austin, was on Spelce's winning team last year and he's back for an 18th run. The ex-Army Ranger and former whitewater guide has been on the winning team in the open division nine times since 1993.

Dunn, 37, knows his boat is the one everyone else will be gunning for, which gives him and his teammates a mental advantage from the start.

Between all of us in the boat, we've had 90 finishes and 36 wins," he said. "You don't know what it takes to win until you do it."

phused" by Schwarzenegger's comment.

"I don't know what the definition of 'girly-man' is. As opposed to his being a he-man?" Burton said. "I can't think of a way to have the he-man and the girly-man join hands around the Capitol and sing 'Kum Be Yah.'"

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, also a San Francisco Democrat, said: "Those are the kinds of statements that ought not to come out of the mouth of the governor." He says he's going to "terminate" members in November 1 really don't know what he means by that. That's not funny any more."

## Schwarzenegger mocks state lawmakers as 'girly-men' over budget

BY PETER NICHOLAS  
Los Angeles Times

ONTARIO, Calif. — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger mocked his opponents in the California Legislature on Saturday as "girly-men," and called upon voters to "terminate" them in the polls in November if they don't pass his \$103 billion budget.

Using tough rhetoric that borrowed from his days as a body-builder and movie actor, the governor said that lawmakers are telling "lies" and are "back to their old habits" after a post-election burst of bipartisan collaboration.

Legislators, he said at a rally in the food court of the Ontario Mills Mall, are "part of a bureaucracy that is out of shape, that is out of date, that is out of touch and that is definitely out of control in Sacramento."

He also said: "They cannot have the guts to come out there in front of you and say, 'I don't want to represent you. I want to represent those special interests—the unions, the trial lawyers.' ... I call them girly-men. They should get back to the table and they should finish the budget."

Democratic lawmakers, gay

and lesbian advocates, and feminist groups bristled over the governor's comments, which were greeted with sustained applause by hundreds of people who were invited to the rally through automated phone calls put out by Schwarzenegger's camp.

The governor used the "girly-man" reference twice in the span of a 16-minute speech aimed at pressuring the legislature to pass his budget, now 17 days late. The remark is an apparent reference to an old Saturday Night Live skit parodying Schwarzenegger. Comedians

Dana Carvey and Kevin Nealon played "pumped up" bodybuilders — "Hans" and "Franz" — with thick Austrian accents. Anyone without a muscled torso was dismissed as a "girly-man."

Though the four leaders in the Senate and Assembly are men, women chair some of the legislature's most influential committees, ranging from appropriations to energy. The California Legislative Women's Caucus' Web site lists 33 members — more than one-fourth of the legislature.

Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, a San Francisco Democrat, said he was "non-



## IN THE WORLD

## Arafat's offices torched

## Palestinians protest appointment of relative as new security chief

BY LARA SUKHITIAN  
The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Militants sacked and burned Palestinian government offices Sunday, the latest sign of growing anger over Yasser Arafat's decision to reach into his old guard and choose a loyalist relative as new security chief.

A confrontation was brewing among Arafat — reluctant to yield significant power, and Palestinian militants and even some of Arafat's own officers. They are demanding deep reforms and new faces, Palestinian analysts said.

The divide between the two sides grew with the appointment of Moussa Arafat, Arafat's cousin, as the new head of Palestinian security. Many Palestinians rejected Moussa as a symbol of corruption and cronyism, propelling long-held dissatisfaction into the open.

The internal Palestinian unrest was the most serious in more than a year. In 2003, protests against corruption forced Arafat to promise reforms and appoint a new government, led by Mahmoud Abbas.

He resigned after only four months.

The turmoil came as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon planned to withdraw from Gaza next year, intensifying a struggle for power and influence among the various Palestinian factions.

Sharon said the trouble reinforced his contention that Israel cannot negotiate with the present Palestinian leadership.



Newly appointed chief of Palestinian security forces Moussa Arafat, center, is surrounded by bodyguards as he walks by his new office in Gaza City on Sunday.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz called Arafat's reforms "an illusion" and said the Palestinian leader had retained his grip on power. "They are playing musical chairs," he told Israel Radio.

Sharon began coalition talks Sunday with moderate Labor Party opposition leader Shimon Peres. Sharon wants to rebuild his coalition government with parties that will support the Gaza pullout.

Also on Sunday, Israel's Cabinet Sunday approved the extension of a law banning Palestinians who marry Israeli Arabs from living in Israel.

The law, enacted last year for an initial one-year period, was extended by six months. It still needs parliamentary approval.

Arabs make up about 20 percent of Israel's population of 6.6 million, while about 3 million Palestinians live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Many families were divided by cease-fire lines by Mideast wars, and over the years, marriage between the two groups has been common.

## In Iran, lawyer protests trial of slain journalist

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI  
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's hard-line judiciary on Sunday abruptly ended the trial of a secret agent charged with murdering an Iranian-Canadian photo-journalist, and lawyers for the victim's mother said the proceedings as "unacceptable."

It was not clear when a verdict would be issued in the case, which has strained ties with Canada and led to accusations among hard-liners and reformers within Iran's ruling Islamic establishment.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi, who leads a four-member legal team representing Zahra Kazemi's mother, said the lawyers refused to sign the bill of indictment and walked out of the courthouse on protest.

"This court is unacceptable. The indictment is flawed and incomplete," he said. "A verdict issued based on this hearing won't be fair."

The court had only met three times in the trial of agent Mohammad Reza Aghdam Ahmadi, a counterespionage expert and the only person implicated by the judiciary in what is called the "semi-premeditated murder" of Kazemi. He pleaded innocent Saturday.

Ahmadi's lawyer Qasem Shabani said he expected his client to be acquitted.

Kazemi, a Canadian freelance journalist of Iranian origin, died July 10, 2003, while in detention for taking photographs outside a Tehran prison during student-led protests against the ruling establishment.

Iranian authorities initially said Kazemi died of a stroke.

Later, a presidential committee found that she died of a fractured skull and brain hemorrhage from a blow to the head.

Iran-Canada relations, strained by the slaying, further deteriorated after Iran rejected Canada's request for observers to attend the trial. When the Canadian ambassador was about to be recalled for the second time over the issue, Iran agreed to allow diplomats to watch.

But after allowing Canadian and European diplomats and media to attend on Saturday, officials closed the trial on Sunday, angering diplomats. The judge apparently didn't realize on Saturday that the Canadian ambassador was at the hearing.

"From the very beginning, we opposed the idea of sending a Canadian observer to the court and we still oppose that idea," said Iran Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi.

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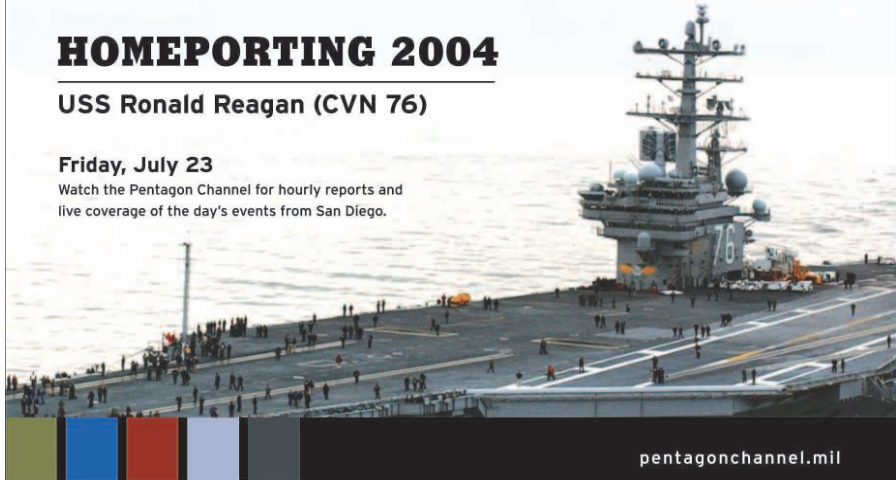
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## Outgoing coach says thanks

After teaching 31 years overseas — 28 in Europe — I would like to say many thanks to all the people that have made these years so wonderful.

Throughout this period I've had the honor and pleasure to coach at Bitburg High. The Stars and Stripes sports department, Rusty Bryan and Mike Abrams, have delighted us with their great coverage and many stories over the years. They have covered games and championships, and given great support and coverage of our football team the last five years in Bitburg. For we are most grateful.

I was very honored to open Stars and Stripes on June 9, 1974, and read the article that was written by Rusty Bryan. This was greatly appreciated by me and my family and an article I will cherish as a reminder of the European experience.

I would also like to thank the Eifel community, AFN Eifel and the Eifel Times for their outstanding support and coverage over the years. Thanks to the many coaches who've supported the football camps and coached the many teams. You truly are a great asset. Thanks to all my assistants over the years: because of you BHS football has been most successful.

It's been an outstanding journey and one that will never be forgotten. Leaving Europe to embark on new challenges will be difficult, but one of our family looks forward to. Nothing will replace the years spent here and the many people who made my job such a pleasure.

The "voice of the Eifel," Denny Lemmon, and his outstanding Saturday afternoon coverage will always remain on my ears each Saturday in the States.

Thanks again, and I can only hope my new home in Reno, Nev., can be as rewarding as my life in Europe has been.

Coach Rick Carr

Bitburg, Germany

## Don't bash the president

Backing President Bush does not mean we have to believe in everything he does or agree with all of his decisions. No one can agree with everything, and everyone makes mistakes.

Being president doesn't make someone superhuman or perfect. Look at our previous president, yet everyone applauded him. President Bush has become very unpopular and has suffered extreme criticism and yet he stands strong for what he believes is right. He is not swayed by protesters, nor is he allowing the media and the lies spread by the various news media to cause him to waver. He's doing his best to protect our country.

Our nation stands against an enemy that has no time limits or conscience and is not biased as to whom it destroys or how it kills. We do not stand alone against this enemy.

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, any advice letters or topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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should all other widows receive a lifetime of government assistance? Even combat veterans don't get such a perk.

More importantly, if a widow remarries a non-military man, shouldn't he take the responsibility to provide for her? She receives whatever benefits and health coverage that come with her new husband's job, and if she still prefers the military coverage, there is another option: she can remarry a husband (or even be hired) can join the armed forces and get them the same pay the rest of us did.

Moreover, widows of servicemen are covered by Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, which already pays out over \$200,000 of the bare minimum.

I have every sympathy for military widows/widowers, but military assistance should go to those who need it the most, not to people who have moved on with their lives and no longer have any association with the military.

Capt. John H. Smith III  
Gelnhausen, Germany

## It's a matter of loyalty

After reading "Conservatives are like sheep," I was a little confused.

The writer states that he is a retired captain. Surely as a retired officer in the armed forces of the United States he would be familiar with a value called loyalty.

A statement such as "I support the president's action whether I agree with it or not" is merely an affirmation of loyalty that every servicemember should display regardless of who the commander in chief is.

The captain's view on Vietnam leaves out the primary reason of why all of Vietnam is a communist nation today: President Nixon successfully "Vietnamized" the war and had withdrawn almost all U.S. troops, the Democratic Congress voted to cut funding for the South Vietnamese military. They were betrayed. A historical fact, but not a popular view among the liberal media.

The liberal, anti-American side of ABC, NBC, CNN and CBS is so blatant you would have to be an ignorant fool not to notice. He says that a group of retired officers, diplomats and Nobel Prize recipients have advocated that President Bush be voted out of office. If this same group told you to jump off a cliff, would you?

Should we take Nobel Prize winners seriously? The terrorist Yasser Arafat has one for "his efforts to promote peace in the Middle East."

I guess the Nobel Foundation forgot about the scores of Israelis that he's directly or indirectly butchered over the years.

Liberals in uniform are living a lie. Values such as integrity, loyalty and love of country that are ingrained into the armed forces are alien concepts to the left.

Tech. Sgt. Charles A. Bushong  
Iraq

## Not the American way

In the letter "In Defense of Military Widows" (July 12), the writer claims that it is a "grave injustice" that military widows who remarry a non-military man lose their military benefits. He says this is not the "American way."

Is it truly the American way for someone to receive government benefits, courtesy of the taxpayer, without any end in sight?

Widows of retirees have earned this, but

Sharon Bielby  
Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany

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Widows of retirees have earned this, but

## Doonesbury

WE'RE BACK AND CHATTING WITH RUPERT MURDOCH ABOUT "OUTRAGED," THE NEW DOONESBURY AND HIS FOX NEWS NETWORK...

MR. M., THE FILM SHOWS IN DETAIL HOW FOX NEWS HAS EFFECTIVELY BECOME THE BROADCAST ARM OF THE BUSH WHITE HOUSE.

WELL, THAT'S RIGHT, MARK. NO ADMINISTRATION HAS EVER HAD THE FOX NEWS NETWORK BEFORE. WE SAW A NEED.

WELL, I OWN FOX IN CHINA... SAY NO MORE!



## OPINION

## CIA wasn't only one hornswoggled by Iraq

BY JOHN HALL  
Media General

## WASHINGTON

The Senate's Intelligence Committee report on CIA handlers leading up to the Iraq war has touched off the first head-to-head clash of the presidential campaign.

This is more than preliminary, pre-convention sparring. Although it's only July, campaigns are blazing from both sides.

You would think that the new Democratic ticket would be writing a thank-you note. What a gift just before the party convention. But nothing is that simple.

When the committee recently claimed that the United States had gone to war on the basis of flawed intelligence — specifically a string of erroneous CIA findings that Iraq had slashed away weapons of mass destruction — it made no judgment about President Bush. Many Democrats seized on the report as an indictment of Bush's Iraq policy, and Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said he had been misled into voting for the resolution of support for the war.

The Democratic standard-bearer, Sen. John Kerry, said of the administration: "They were wrong and soldiers died because they were wrong."

Yet, Kerry and his running mate, Sen. John Edwards, have brushed aside as "hypothetical" questions about whether they would have changed their votes in favor of the Iraq war resolution had they known in 2003 what they know now.

If a policy is branded wrong in retrospect, a question about a vote for the policy doesn't look all that hypothetical.

Vice President Dick Cheney said Kerry and Edwards had developed a case of "amnesia" about their votes. Kerry responded that he was proud of another vote he and Edwards cast — this one against an \$87 billion appropriation to carry out the war.

You could almost hear the voices offstage, "Don't go there."

That's the \$87 billion Kerry voted against after "actually" voting for it — made famous in a campaign commercial Bush used to disparage Kerry last spring as he was nailing down the Democratic nomination.

Meanwhile, Bush and Cheney seemed eager to prove they made the right choice in committing the nation to war.

Bush went to Oak Ridge, Tenn., with public opinion polls indicating steady erosion in support on Iraq. You would have thought he might have reflected on why he and the experts on Iraq were so convinced Saddam Hussein was hiding WMD.

Instead, a combative Bush said he was justified in going to war and would not retreat one inch from his controversial and unpopular policy of pre-emptive warfare.

Why was everyone fooled about the Iraqi weapons? The CIA wasn't the only institution that was hornswoggled. Saddam Hussein had convinced everyone else he had plenty to hide when he kicked weapons inspectors out of Iraq. Yet the latest evidence is that he had given up his quest for nukes in the mid-1990s, but wanted the world, and



his own people as well as his own army, to believe to the end that he had nukes, as well as germ and chemical weapons ... so his enemies would fear him more. ...

Saddam's thought processes really don't matter much anymore. Or do they? If he had given United Nations inspectors free reign in his country — as they were supposed to

have after his 1991 war against Kuwait — he would not have drawn the suspicion that he drew to himself and his country. But in his country, he needed that notoriety. And so, over here, there was an intelligence failure, a war, a big investigation and a campaign.

John Hall is the senior Washington correspondent of Media General News Service.

## Gadhafi, Saddam equally evil: Why punish just one?

BY MONA ELTAHAWEY

When the United States ended a 24-year chill and restored diplomatic relations with Libya on June 28, the first person I thought of was Baha Omari Kikhia. I interviewed her in Cairo, Egypt, more than 10 years ago during one of her many trips to the region to find out what happened to her husband, former Libyan foreign minister turned dissident Mansour Kikhia.

His case has too easily been lost in the text-and-bulletin-board crimes committed by the Libyans, such as the 1988 Pan Am bombing, which killed 270 people. But Moammar Gadhafi has been brutal to Libyans, too, and his various eccentricities should not blind us to the police state he has presided over since he assumed power in a September 1969 coup.

He may travel with Kalashnikov-armed female bodyguards, he may pitch tents at home and abroad for talks with officials, and he may pen such "classics" as the short story collection "The Village, the Village, the Earth, the Earth and the Suicide of the Astronaut," but none of these quirks should distract us from his abysmal human-rights record. Arbitrary arrests, a muzzled press, a ban on political parties and the squandering of Libya's oil wealth have never been laughing matters for Libyans.

And we should not forget Mansour Kikhia, who disappeared in Cairo in September 1993 while attending a meeting of an Arab human-rights organization he had helped found. Kikhia had defected to the United States in 1980 and was a U.S. resident who was four months away from receiving citizenship when he went to Egypt. A four-year CIA investigation found in 1997 that Egyptian agents turned over Kikhia — who had asked for Egyptian security protection while in Cairo — to agents of Gadhafi's regime, who spirited the dissident to Libya, where he was executed and buried in the Libyan desert.

My interview with his wife, a U.S. citizen, left me painfully saddened for her and her family. I could not forget her during an assignment in Tripoli in 1996, when a Libyan government minder shadowed me at every turn and an official with the ministry of information asked me why we were so critical of Libya in the copy we filed at the Reuters news agency. And I will not forget her now, or the many others who have suffered from Gadhafi's regime, just because he is able to say the things he knows the Americans and British want to hear.

Gadhafi, claiming he had seen the light, accepted responsibility last year for the Pan Am bombing, agreeing to pay compensation to the victims' families. I wonder whether he has paid compensation to Baha Omari Kikhia) and to dismantle his chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs. If that last bit sounds foolish, it should.

President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair want us to think that Gadhafi's conversion on the road to Washing-

ton and London was due to the fear that he would end up in the same jail cell as Saddam Hussein. (Gadhafi's daughter Aicha, a law professor, has joined Saddam's defense team.) With no weapons of mass destruction to justify a war against a country that never threatened them, Bush and Blair are determined to hold on to their theory that the "war on terrorism" and the invasion of Iraq would bring rogue states in line.

But it's an old argument they're making. In the absence of weapons of mass destruction, and with images of Saddam on trial for war crimes, they have been pushing the "removal of a brutal dictator" excuse for the invasion of Iraq.

How do they square this with their astonishing rush to embrace another ruthless dictator? Gadhafi's behavior of late has been uncomfortably close to brutal.

In May ... a Libyan court sentenced five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor to death by firing squad for deliberately infecting some 400 children with HIV. The medics

had always protested their innocence and said they had been tortured by police, with beatings, sexual assault and electric shocks. Expert witnesses for their defense included one of the team that discovered the AIDS virus, who said this was an epidemic caused by poor hygiene at the hospital, not an international conspiracy. Not Bulgaria, a member of the "Coalition of the Willing" ...

In London last year, Bush acknowledged that the United States and Britain had not always been on the right side of democracy when it came to the Mideast. "Your nation and mine in the past have been willing to make a bargain to tolerate oppression for the sake of stability," Bush said in Haiti.

It's not difficult to imagine that just such a bargain, along with some good old-fashioned military and oil contracts thrown in, is the driving force behind the resumption of ties with Libya.

Mona Eltahawy is managing editor of Arabic Women's eNews and a columnist for the London-based newspaper *Al-Awsat*. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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## Canine crook

**VA** McLEAN — The cops red-pawed.

An elderly woman complained to police that someone was stealing figurines from her yard in a Washington, D.C., suburb. Officers set up a spycam and caught their suspect in the act four times.

Police in Fairfax County say their bad guy is really a not-so-bad Labrador retriever named Magnum. The dog had been retrieving the figurines and bringing them home.

Police say Magnum's owner tried to find where the lawn ornaments were coming from, but failed. Now, all but two of the figurines have been returned — and those involved had a good laugh.

## Ring, owner reunited

**VT** BURLINGTON — A 1937 Burlington High School class ring will be reunited with its owner's family.

Beverly Mae Lord apparently lost it in the 1940s in her back yard, where the ring was found earlier this year by the current owner who dug it up while gardening.

Dori Weigand said she believed the owner must have been a woman because the tiny ring hardly fit on her pinkie finger. The initials "BML" offered the only clue.

Weigand called The Burlington Free Press where an investigation using an old BHS yearbook, a marriage record, an online Social Security database and old issues of the newspaper led to the identity of the ring owner and her children.

Weigand said she would arrange a meeting with Rosario so she can return the ring to its rightful owner.

## 17 hurt in van accident

**TX** GRAND SALINE — Seventeen people were taken to hospitals in Grand Saline and Tyler on Friday after a church van overturned on an East Texas highway.

The accident happened on U.S. 80, about 15 miles northwest of Tyler, said Bonnie Willingham, a Texas Department of Public Safety dispatcher.

There was no word on the conditions of the 17, but none were airlifted, Willingham said.

The van apparently belonged to the Harvest Baptist Church in Mincola, she said.

There was no immediate word on what caused the accident, but investigators said only the van was involved, Willingham said.

## Fox caught with papers

**KS** OTTAWA — Neighbors in a subdivision in this small eastern Kansas community have been out of the loop for weeks. Some sly fox had been stealing their Kansas City Star newspapers.

The bold burglar crept onto driveways while subscribers slept, grabbed a paper and ran.

The case was finally cracked recently when Steve Thompson caught the culprit: a red fox.

The fox had been taking the papers to a hollow behind the subdivision, Thompson said. He tracked the furry felon to a large pile of newspapers near its den.

"We always thought it was an

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

early morning jogger," said Lionel Sutton, another subdivision resident.

The newspaper carrier even stalked out the neighborhood to catch the canny criminal, Sutton said.

Aaron Scheve, a Kansas Wildlife and Parks ranger for the area, said such behavior is unusual, but not out of the ordinary. He said the fox probably used the papers to insulate its den.

## Incensed over a nickel

**WA** EAST WENATCHEE — Sandy Bryan gave the state her two-cents worth over the five cents they claim she owes.

When the Washington state Department of Employment Security notified her that she owed money for an unemployment compensation overpayment more than six years ago, she picked up the phone.

She was being threatened with court action over a nickel.

Bryan said she asked the state employee who took her call on a toll-free line whether she should mail in a nickel taped to a piece of paper.

"I said, 'Do you realize for this nickel, you paid an employee to type this ... [spent] 37 cents for postage, and you want me to pay for a money order and the postage?'" she said.

The response was that the money had to be paid properly, she said.



## New dam dedicated

Officials sign documents on a boat in the lock at Montgomery Point Lock and Dam near Yancopin, Ark., during a dedication for the facility near the mouth of the Arkansas River.

Bryan said she was overpaid when she was on unemployment for about three months more than six years ago but thought she had paid it all back.

That was until she got a notice dated June 18 that demanded payment of five cents, after which "the Superior Court warrant will be satisfied immediately."

Employment Security spokeswoman Kristin Alexander said the overpayment notices are sent to about 70,000 people a month with the average amount about \$1,000.

## State appealing decision

**MD** HAGERSTOWN — The state is appealing a decision to reinstate a corrections officer who was fired when her nude photos appeared on the Internet.

An administrative law judge previously ruled that the First Amendment rights of Marcie Betts, 22, outweighed the impact the images might have on the state's ability to safely and efficiently run its prisons.

## No more public access?

**IN** EAST CHICAGO — The city council is taking steps to eliminate the public access channel from the city's cable TV system, a move that critics say would mute programs critical of the city government.

Officials said the city wasn't trying to quiet opposition and that shows can get on cable by paying a license agreement.

## Economy strengthening

**SC** COLUMBIA — The state added 5,600 new jobs in June, the Employment Security Commission said. About 3,500 service jobs and 3,400 leisure and hospitality jobs were added. South Carolina lost 5,700 local government jobs, mostly because of the end of the school year. While the job growth was small, the commission said it shows the state's economy is slowly growing stronger.

## Taxes may go for buses

**OR** BEND — Voters could be asked in November to increase their property taxes to fund a local bus system. The fast-growing city is currently one of the largest cities west of the Mississippi with no fixed-route bus system. Voters will be asked for a property tax increase of about 19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to fund a bus system.

## City officials enter pleas

**HI** HONOLULU — A city wastewater official has pleaded innocent to theft and bribery charges for allegedly ordering city workers to do work at a private residence on city time and using city resources.

Harry Hauck III and Jay Gonzales were indicted for an incident between July and August 2001. Both are supervisors at the Kaliua Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Hauck pleaded not guilty.

Several employees from the Kaliua plant filed a lawsuit in June 2002 against Hauck, Gonzales and other wastewater officials over alleged abuses of overtime and city sources.



**It feels so good!** Lucky is rinsed off by Jenna Watson (not shown) of West Bloomfield, Mich., at a Horseshows by the Bay's horse show in Traverse City, Mich. The competition started on July 14 and will continue Wednesdays through Sundays until Aug. 1.



**Fun at Homecoming** Makenzie Reinhart plays on a mid-way ride during the annual Wauseon Homecoming in Wauseon, Ohio.





## Shadow soccer

Jesse Green, 15, works on his ball-handling skills with his friend Stephen Dixon (not shown). Jesse and Stephen are fresh freshmen at Duluth High School in Duluth, Ga., and plan to try out for the school's soccer team.



## Surfer memorial

A memorial is held at Pelican Beach Park in Satellite Beach, Fla., for Courtney Marcher, who disappeared while surfing in Hawaii. Surfer friends of Marcher, 22, paddled out for the conclusion of the service with the laying of a wreath.



## Gearing up for competition

Dason Maloney, 9, of Tupelo, Miss., practices his slalom run at a private ski lake in Lee County, Miss. Dason is preparing for the state ski competition in Brandon, Miss. Dason will compete in both the regional and national ski competitions later this year.

## Robbery face off

**OK** ARDMORE — Gene McMahon put the hammer down on a would-be robber.

The 68-year-old McMahon was behind the counter at Taylor's Liquor Store when he saw a man walk into the nearby Boy's Food Store and point a weapon at the clerk.

He grabbed his claw hammer, locked the liquor store and went next door to confront the robber.

"It was going to be him or me," McMahon said.

He said the man threatened to shoot him, a fight ensued and both lost their weapons. The money was dropped and the robber ran away.

Christopher Ray Smith, 22, was arrested by police in connection with the robbery.

Police Lt. Rickey D. Lawrence said McMahon's crime-fighting behavior is not encouraged.

"There are times when things don't go right," Lawrence said.

"Realistically, it's best for citizens to get a description and a direction of travel and let us find the subject and put him in custody."

## Portable toilet blows up

**WV** BLACKSVILLE — A man smoking in a portable toilet lit up more than a cigarette.

The potty exploded when a build-up of methane gas mixed with the lit cigarette, said a spokeswoman for Monongalia Emergency Medical Services. The methane didn't "take too kindly" to the cigarette, she said.

Emergency workers said the man was not severely injured and drove himself to the hospital after the stinky, smoky mess.

## Court finds for school

**RI** PROVIDENCE — The state Supreme Court said a Catholic school can demand that a student cut his long locks, reversing a lower court ruling.

Russell Gorman III filed a lawsuit nearly two years ago after he was expelled from St. Raphael Academy. The court said St. Raphael, as a private school, was allowed to devise and enforce its own rules, as long as they don't contradict public policy.

## State files against agent

**MO** ST. LOUIS — The state attorney general brought a lawsuit against travel agent Tina Marie Pleno for allegedly selling trips to Cancun to a high school reunion committee, then failing to provide the trips. Attorney General Jay Nixon obtained a temporary restraining order prohibiting Pleno from operating as a travel agent and will seek full restitution and penalties.

## Man charged

**TX** BROWNWOOD — A man who claimed last year that he was bitten by a rattlesnake in a Wal-Mart in Brownwood was arrested Thursday on charges of filing a false report.

Douglas Wayne Hatchett Jr., 32, of Bangs was arrested by Brown County sheriff's deputies. He was released on \$2,500 bond.

Hatchett's girlfriend, 32-year-old Michelle Beem, surrendered to authorities later in the day and also was released on \$2,500 bond.

The two were named earlier in

the week in a complaint that alleges they falsely reported an emergency and compromised the safety of others by using emergency services.

Hatchett was treated with anti-venom at a hospital in September after he said he was bitten by a rattlesnake in the Wal-Mart shoe department.

If found guilty, they could face up to a year in the Brown County Jail.

## Women facing charges

**VT** MONTPELIER — Two women will likely face charges of hate crimes for allegedly vandalizing downtown buildings, including drawing swastikas on them.

Authorities arrested Sarah Abair, 22, and Tonya Richards, 17.

The vandalism also included derogatory comments about a Jewish Montpelier police officer, said Police Chief Douglas Hoyt.

Hoyt said the two women were caught in the act by Montpelier police. The chalk images were photographed and later washed clean.

## Cities' airports compete

**IL** CHICAGO — Chicago and Atlanta are on track to compete again this year for having the world's busiest airport.

O'Hare International Airport handled nearly a half-million flights in the first half of the year, more than any other U.S. airport, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

But Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is on pace to handle the most passengers this year, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The two cities have run neck-and-neck in recent years to claim the title. But it's a game of definitions and numbers on which even the experts don't agree.

O'Hare had 490,987 takeoffs and landings in the first six months of the year, the FAA said. Hartsfield had 481,390 flights. The O'Hare data surpassed the 2003 midyear totals by 39,813 flights, the FAA said.

From January through April — the latest data available — Hartsfield handled 12 million originating passengers, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. O'Hare was second with 9.4 million boardings.

## Prison in lockdown

**NV** INDIAN SPRINGS — High Desert State Prison is in lockdown, two days after an inmate was fatally injured and 18 others were hurt in a rock-throwing melee in an outdoor recreation yard.

Guards fired shotgun pellets toward the crowd of at least 60 medium-security inmates during Tuesday's riot, which lasted 30 minutes. Four inmates were taken to hospitals.

## Degree policy changed

**MS** JACKSON — The Mississippi College Board approved a plan to allow students to take fewer hours to earn a bachelor's degree. The average number of hours required would go from 131 to 124. The board's academic affairs committee recommended the change.

The new policy will take effect for all undergraduate students first enrolled in the fall 2007 semester and afterward.

Stories and photos from wire services

# India shuts thatched-roof schools

BY S. SRINIVASAN  
The Associated Press

KUMBAKONAM, India — Authorities ordered the closure of hundreds of schools with flammable thatched roofs in a southern Indian state after 90 children died last week in a school fire, officials said Sunday.

Investigators said the blaze Friday at the private Lord Krishna Middle School in Tamil Nadu state was apparently sparked by dry coconut leaves being used as firewood in a makeshift kitchen. It then spread to the school's thatched roofs, which collapsed onto the students below.

K. Gramadesikan, the state's education secretary, said the government had ordered all schools with thatched roofs to close for a week to build concrete roofs.

It wasn't clear how many schools would be shut, but about 500 of the 1,500 privately owned primary schools in the state have such roofs.

About 90 children were killed in the blaze. About 90 others who were injured have been released from hospitals, leaving 10 severely injured children still hospitalized.

"Nine children are recovering well. They will be OK," the area's government administrator, J. Radhakrishnan, told the AP. "But one remains in critical condition."

Each of the school's long, narrow and windowless classrooms had only one exit. The parents jumped quickly to the building's thatched roof, and many children couldn't escape.

Police investigators were at the site Sunday, measuring walls, burned bamboo poles, the floor and even some of the furniture, apparently to check if the school had followed government guidelines.

Sonia Gandhi, head of India's ruling coalition, also visited the scene and said the accident "has stunned the entire nation." She announced a \$220,000 assistance package for the town, Kumbakonam.



People offer flower petals at a memorial Saturday for the children who died in a fire at a school in Kumbakonam, about 215 miles southwest of Madras, India.

The police have arrested five school officials: the principal, his wife, who is a member of the school's management; his daughter, who helped run the school; and two kitchen workers. They were being held on negligence charges.

The school was one of thousands of similar private operations across India. They often use small, cramped rooms and cater to poor Indian families, charging the equivalent of \$5 to \$10 a month.

The schools often flout government guidelines.

Such schools have mushroomed as the

cash-strapped government cut education spending and stopped building new schools. Many are located in crowded buildings without basic safety measures such as fire alarms and sprinkler systems. They rarely have playgrounds, athletic fields or open space.

Indian courts are now ordering bigger schools to admit a certain percentage of underprivileged students each year, even if they can't pay the high fees that average about \$100 a month.

Public schools, while often better equipped than their private counterparts, can be far away and difficult to reach.

Almost all the children at Lord Krishna Middle School came from poor families.

## New leader in Portugal

LISBON, Portugal — Portugal's new prime minister and his Cabinet took office Saturday, ending more than two weeks of political uncertainty after the country's leader resigned to become president of the European Commission.

Pedro Santana Lopes was sworn in as prime minister of Portugal's 16th constitutional government at a ceremony with President Jorge Sampaio. He pledged to lead the conservative coalition government through the next two years of its mandate.

Santana Lopes, 48, has for the past three years been Lisbon's mayor and has never held a senior government post.

## Tourist bus crashes

BERLIN — A Danish bus packed with young vacationers veered off a western German highway Sunday, smashed through the guardrail and fell 30 feet off a bridge. Two passengers were killed and 50 others were injured, police said.

The roof of the yellow double-decker bus was crushed when it crashed off the A1 autobahn near Euskirchen, southwest of Cologne, on the way home from the Spanish beach resort of Lloret del Mar.

Rescuers used metal cutters to free many victims.

Aboard were 64 passengers, ages 16 to 20, the driver and a substitute driver, police said. Authorities said the two dead were Danish nationals, but did not immediately release their names.

Excessive speed or other factors do not appear to have been involved in the crash, traffic police spokesman Georg Lessar said.

## Veteran thank-you

ALGIERS, Algeria — France will pay \$79.2 million to Algerian veterans who helped free the country from the Nazi yoke in World War II, the French defense minister said.

Michele Alliot-Marie, on a three-day trip to the north African country in the midst of improving bilateral ties, also announced a cooperation accord that will involve sales of military hardware.

Alliot-Marie, speaking to reporters late Saturday, said France "is aware of what it owes Algeria" — which won independence in 1962 — and more than 130 years of French rule.

## Familial face on stamp

VIENNA, Austria — California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is getting a birthday gift in his home country: a stamp in his honor.

The Austrian post office announced on its Web site that the \$1.25 stamp will be released on the actor-turned-politician's birthday, July 30. Schwarzenegger, who will be 57, was born in the Austrian state of Styria near the southern city of Graz.

The stamp — which shows Schwarzenegger in a suit and tie with the American and Austrian flags in the background — is part of a collectors' series called "Austrians living abroad," the post office said.

From The Associated Press

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.3726
British pound	\$1.91
Japanese yen (July 19)	107.00
S. Korean won (July 19)	1,129.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.9709
Canada (Dollar)	1.5073
Denmark (Krone)	6.0194
Egypt (Pound)	2.254
France (Euro)	\$1.3458
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.791
Hungary (Forint)	20.458
India (Rupee)	70.815
Israel (Shekel)	4.4924
Japan (Yen)	107.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.3400
Philippines (Peso)	55.88
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3568
South Korea (Won)	1,129.00
Sri Lanka (Rupee)	20.458
Switzerland (Franc)	1.3458
Thailand (Baht)	40.8
Turkey (Lira)	1,428,571.00
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military facilities in the country of issuance for the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-military currency exchange rates, see purchasing British pounds in Germany and for the local currency in the issuing facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference only. Buying currency. All figures are foreign exchange rates as of 4 p.m. EDT. The British pound, which is represented in dollars to euro, and the euro, which is dollars to euro.)	

## PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$457.00
Silver	\$6.70

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.25
90-day T-bill	2.25
3-month bill	2.14
6-month bill	2.12
1-year bill	2.12
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	

## Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

## Saving for a bad day

CBS MarketWatch

**NEW YORK** — A car accident, busted boiler, sudden lay-off or unexpected hospital stay can do significant damage to your finances — unless you have the foresight to maintain an emergency fund.

An emergency fund is simply a savings account or other investments set aside solely as a financial safety net. In her new book "Just Give Me The Answer," Sheryl Garrett, a financial adviser and founder of the Garrett Planning Network, said tapping a specific account for emergencies is better than building up credit-card debt or borrowing money.

How much you should save depends on your other financial obligations and monthly expenses, the number of dependents you have, the stability of your income, your access to low-cost loans and the state of the economy and job market.

Garrett recommends that you set aside three months' to six months' worth of living expenses when your job is secure and the economy is good. But if the economy is bad (assuming it would

take you longer to find a new job), you should save six months' to a year's worth of expenses.

To calculate how much you should save, divide your annual net income by 12.

Multiply the resulting figure by the number of months for which you have to save.

This should account for all your major monthly expenses, as well as other charges that add up. Make sure to contribute to your emergency fund regularly. Have the amount automatically deducted from your paycheck.

Keep the money in a savings account so that it earns interest. As the fund grows, you may consider moving some of it into a money market account or CD. But don't put it all in a CD — you'll pay a penalty if you need to withdraw money before the certificate of deposit matures.

The only time you shouldn't contribute to your emergency fund is when you have significant outstanding credit-card debts or personal loans. The high interest rates you'll pay on those debts outweigh any interest you'd earn saving with an emergency fund.

## Militants claim they got threats from U.S.

The Associated Press

**SANA, Yemen** — A militant accused of involvement in an attack on a French oil tanker claimed in court Saturday he was threatened by American interrogators with death or transfer to a U.S.-run prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The 14 defendants also complained to the judge they had not yet been assigned defense lawyers, and as they were escorted afterward to trucks to return them to their cells, they chanted, "long live (al-Qaida leader Osama) bin Laden. Death to America."

The 14 defendants — plus a 15th suspect being tried in absentia — are accused of planning and carrying out the Oct. 6, 2002, suicide attack on the Limburg tanker. One Bulgarian crewmember was killed and 90,000 barrels of oil spilled into the Gulf of Aden.

Some of the defendants are believed to be linked to bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.





## FACES 'N' PLACES

### NBC's donates \$100,000 to film school

NBC, which is shooting its new police drama "Hawaii" on the islands, has donated more than \$100,000 of new and used sound equipment to the University of Hawaii's film school in Honolulu.

Film school chairman Chris Lee said the list of equipment, much of which comes from "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno," fills 10 pages.

"I have to admit that I got giddy when I saw it," said Lee, a former president of production for TriStar Pictures and Columbia Pictures.

The film school currently uses laptops and small Sony video cameras, he said.

### Bennett plugs online charter schools

William Bennett, the former education secretary and family-values advocate, is pushing Internet-based schooling.

Bennett, who has kept a low profile since admitting last year to being a high-stakes gambler, was in Santa Rosa, Calif., on Friday to plug the online charter schools for homeschooled students. The for-profit company Bennett chairs is providing the curriculum for the California Virtual Academy of Sonoma, a publicly financed charter school that will begin online instruction this fall.

Bennett's 5-year-old company, K12, says this year it will help teach students in 11 states, including about an estimated 18,000 in California.

### Dr. Laura on the move

Dr. Laura Schlessinger has withdrawn her application to lease a Stearns Wharf office in Santa Barbara, Calif., where she planned to broadcast her nationally syndicated radio talk show.

Schlessinger, who owns a sailboat in Santa Barbara Harbor, had expressed interest in leasing a 250-square-foot office space used by a city wharf maintenance supervisor.

However, city officials had debated whether that would be legal in an area that is zoned for businesses that are "ocean-oriented, visitor-serving and ocean-related uses."



Schlessinger

### From shock jock to sheriff?

An out-of-work shock jock is seeking a new job — sheriff.

Bubba the Love Sponge Clem, who was fired by radio giant Clear Channel Communications in February after it decided his raunchy radio show didn't fit its standards, will be the lone Democrat on the ballot for Pinellas County, Fla., sheriff.

His name will appear on the ballot as "Bubba Clem." His given name was Todd Clem before it was legally changed to reflect his on-air moniker.

Clem will face either Chief Deputy Jim Coats or retired Ohio sheriff's deputy Tim Glassburner in November. Coats and Glassburner are vying for the Republican spot on the ballot.

Clem's sexually explicit morning show, which aired on stations in Callahan, Clearwater, Port Charlotte and West Palm Beach, prompted a \$755,000 fine from the Federal Communications Commission earlier this year.

### Close call for Prince Charles

A Royal Air Force plane carrying Prince Charles was involved in a "near miss" incident with a passenger jet earlier this year, air traffic controllers said Friday in London.

The National Air Traffic Service said neither plane had been in danger when the prince's jet neared the flight path of a Heathrow-bound Airbus A321 over southern England on March 24.

The service said both pilots filed an "air proximity report" after the incident, which occurred at about 11,500 feet.

It said an air traffic controller had acted quickly to correct the problem, and that the planes had remained 3.1 nautical miles apart horizontally and 900 feet apart vertically.

It said the Independent U.K. Airprox (air proximity) Board was investigating whether there had been a risk of collisions.

"At no point was the safety of either aircraft compromised in NATS' view," the service said in a statement.

From The Associated Press



George Clooney, left, signs autographs as he answers media questions in downtown Milan, Italy, in this 2001 file photo. Clooney, a Laglio, Italy resident, has developed a favorable reputation in the northern Italian town.

AP photos

## Laglio's favorite son

### Actor George Clooney develops reputation as neighborhood good guy in northern Italian town

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

The Associated Press

George Clooney shoots baskets with the local kids, carries grandmothers' groceries uphill and works hard on pronouncing *Buon giorno*. He has international stardom and racially good looks, but in this hamlet where Clooney owns an 18th-century mansion with a private dock on Lake Como, the star is simply *bravo* — Italian for "a good person."

Sure, the fans pitching tents outside Villa Oleandra are a nuisance, but locals say they don't mind the extra business their celebrity neighbor has generated since he bought the mansion two years ago.

"He's good and kind with everyone. All you have to do is not intrude on him," said Giordano Saibene, sunning himself on a narrow stone ledge with a view of the pine-shaded villa.

Intruding may include snapping photos — Saibene said Clooney's bodyguards once threw apples at a fan who was trying to take a picture of the villa.

Star-watching was at a fever pitch recently in Laglio, as fans searched for a glimpse not only of Clooney, but his co-stars in "Ocean's Twelve," which was wrapping up filming in Italy. Brad Pitt, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Julia Roberts and Matt Damon are in the sequel to 2001's "Ocean's Eleven," which is a remake of a 1960 Frank Sinatra movie.

"Everyone was outside the villa. Old ladies and entire families. There were even those who slept in their car. It was a pilgrimage," said Nencio Folloni, owner of Laglio's Lantern bar.

Pitt liked to tool around in a rented motorboat, said Daniele Riva, whose family boatyard provided it. Riva said

local authorities asked that boats not be rented "to the curious" who might disturb the stars at play. The Rivas, who have built boats for five generations for the rich who summer in Laglio, obliged.

Mariuccia Riva, Daniele's mother, said she first came across Clooney when he had locked himself out of the villa. Since then, he always tells her good morning.

"He says it like this, 'Buon giorno, signora,'" Mariuccia Riva said, opening her mouth wide and rolling the vowels in an exaggerated imitation of Clooney's efforts to pronounce Italian.

Clooney is known for hopping into the boat with a white convertible top that he keeps at his dock, zipping guests across the lake to dine in other towns.

A Como newspaper published an appeal by Laglio's Catholic pastor, pleading to fans to leave Clooney in peace, saying Laglio's "tranquility" is its main selling point.

But Folloni contended celebrity is good for business: "Before, Laglio wasn't on the map. Now it is and we like that." Townspeople say they have an easy relationship with Clooney.

"Maybe because none of us ever bothered him, he would invite us" to join him on a public basketball court, said Saibene.

Clooney would pedal the few miles to the court on his mountain bike, a basketball in his backpack.

The actor was cycling one morning when he saw Saibene's 75-year-old grandmother trudging home with bags of milk, bread and other groceries and carried them for her.

"This man in a cap and dark glasses stopped and asked if he could help. She thought he was an American tourist," Saibene said.

"She doesn't watch TV because she's in bed by 8 o'clock. She has hens and chicks to tend to."



A lakeside view of George Clooney's villa Oleandra in Laglio on Lake Como in northern Italy. Clooney's 18th-century mansion has a private dock on Lake Como.



# Horoscope

The morning gets off to an energetic start. Do as much as you can before noon because your motivation may wane when the moon goes void of course midday. These are the last few days of the sun's journey in Cancer. Now is the time to make your home run smoothly and stylishly because next week, you will not be bothered by such things.

Joyce Jillson



**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY**  
**July 19.** This year brings the fulfillment of a long-held wish. You'll be happy you never gave up the dream. Finances improve because of decisive actions you take in the next four weeks.

Artistic endeavors are lucky in August and may lead to love and travel. You're terrifically relaxed with a Libra or Taurus and will be able to be a better you because of their influence.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** The struggle is between you and you today. If you're too strict with yourself, you'll rebel and do nothing. So, instead, give yourself permission to do what you feel like doing. Colleagues credit your strengths.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** An elite circle opens up to you. It's like getting a hall pass to a new galaxy — you can observe for a short time before you must return to your usual realm. Later, you can choose whether or not you'd like to be a bona fide member.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Matters of scale come up. You'll be wondering just how important your little problems are and to whom besides you. These are excellent points to ponder, and you could come up with the answer that it's not worth worrying over.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** There's a Chinese proverb that says, "Take chances. When rowing forward, the boat may rock." It's a rocky day for you, but you love being "out on the water," so to speak.

Romance depends on your ability to show your love.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Even on hot July days, there can be a cold bite in the air around those

people who just won't lighten up. But you're the warning agent that gets the room back to normal. That's why you're really needed at every gathering.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Your project may be coming along nicely, but it's time to shake things up. Find your own "test audience," and ask them to give you candid feedback — you'll get gold. Time and money won't be the only resources you'll save.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** This would be a high-pressure day except that you're having none of that. You're in the mood to live a little, and nothing is getting in your way. The more nonsensical and irrelevant an activity seems, the more you'll be attracted to it.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Building on a small win gives you confidence. There was a time when you didn't know how in the world you would meet your aims, but now, you're discovering that you have abilities you can use to achieve your goals.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You feel loose and lively. The stars lift some of the tensions you've been dealing with lately, and now, you fluidly adjust to the present situation. People may ask for your opinion, but you're wise not to give it.

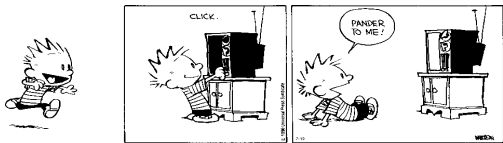
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You're willing to take in life fully. Being the hurts if necessary and are honored by the joys. This opportunity to develop spiritual wisdom is deeply personal and may be made more special now if you keep it to yourself.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Motivation may be low, but you can counteract this by seeking encouragement. Stay around people who will compliment and inspire you. While you're looking for this, you'll end up lighting the fire of inspiration in someone else.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There's much in your environment to react to, but be pro-active instead. Take deliberate action — do something you've thought through many times in the past. One prudent move will contribute hundreds of future successes.

Creators Syndicate

## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



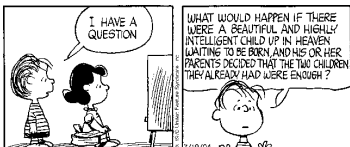
## Red Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



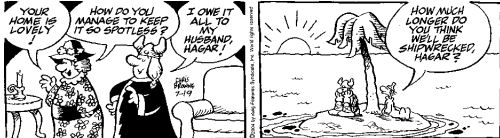
Blondie



Dilbert



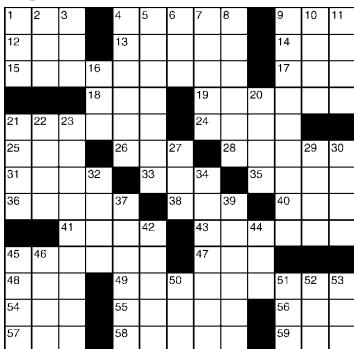
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



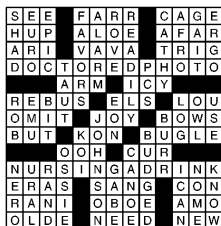
## Across

- 1 Sermon subject  
4 Archaeologist's prize  
9 Dan Rather's workplace  
12 Big hoopla  
13 Actress  
14 Beerlike beverage  
15 "Dead Poets Society" motto  
17 Wish undone  
18 "— been had!"  
19 Mill output  
21 Hopkins' role  
24 Verifiable  
25 Simile center  
26 Verbal  
28 Man of many parts?  
31 Crumbly deposit of earth

## Down

- 1 Pouch  
2 Tennyson princess  
3 Postal Creed word  
4 "Speed" star  
5 On in years  
6 Floral garland  
7 Klutzy  
8 Funt prop  
9 Mid-1800s luggage  
10 On the racy side  
11 Prophet  
16 Refueling area  
20 Brownish purple

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-19

## CRYPTOQUIP

G Z D Y S B I D U T T D U B G Q T  
V W Q J D T Z D U G V Y F . V  
F S D W W W Q C D Q Y D C S W G

Z U I D U B Q T D G Q W D G G I D .  
**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** NOT WANTING TO FALL OFF THE BEAM, THE GYMNAST ALWAYS EATS A WELL-BALANCED DIET.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T









# Two facing bans reach 200 finals

## Sprinters Edwards, Grimes await hearings for positive drug tests

BY ROB GLOSTER

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Two sprinters who might be barred from the Athens Games because of positive drug tests sped into the 200-meter finals Saturday in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials.

Torri Edwards, who faces a two-year ban if found guilty of using a banned stimulant, had the fastest time of 22.38 seconds in the semifinals of the women's 200. She already has qualified for the Athens Games by placing second in the 100.

Mickey Grimes, who faces a lifetime ban if found guilty of a second drug violation, moved into the men's 200 final by placing third in his semifinal.

If she gets to Athens, Edwards won't be facing defending Olympic champion Marion Jones in the 200. Citing fatigue, Jones withdrew from the event Saturday.

Jones failed to qualify in the 100, which means that as of now she won't be defending either of her Olympic sprint titles in Athens. She won the long jump in the trials, which also makes her eligi-

### Olympic track trials

ble for the re-plays in the Olympics.

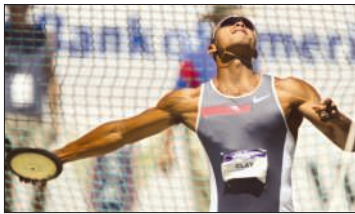
A change in the 100 team is possible because of Edwards' drug case. If she loses her arbitration hearing set for Monday, Edwards could lose her place on the team.

That would move the fourth-place finisher in the trials, Gail Devers, onto the team. But Devers, who already has won two Olympic 100-meter titles and always wanted to win a hurdles title and could skip the 100 to focus on the hurdles. In that case, the fourth-place finisher — Jones — would make the team.

U.S. Olympic women's track coach Sue Humphrey said Devers will wait until after Sunday's hurdles final to decide whether to remain the alternate for the 100.

"If it happens that a lane opens up for whatever reason in Athens, you can be sure I will take advantage of it," Jones said.

Among those joining Edwards in the women's 200 and Sunday will be 18-year-old Allyson Felix and 20-year-old LaShaunte'a



Bryan Clay, above, won the decathlon in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials on Saturday in Sacramento, Calif., with 8,660 points. Clay will be joined in the Athens Games by Tom Pappas and Paul Terrek.

Moore — who said she was surprised at Jones' absence.

"I looked around [in the war-mup area] and didn't see her," Moore said. "I was kind of shocked not to see her out there."

Grimes had a positive result for a steroid in an out-of-competition test this year. Grimes also was stripped of a gold medal in the 100 in last year's Pan American Games after testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine.

Grimes is an HSInternational track club teammate of Edwards. A third HS athlete, hurdler Larry Wade, was named in a drug case this week. A source speaking on condition of anonymity said Wade tested positive for a steroid in an out-of-competition sampling.

The fastest time in the men's 200 semifinals was 20.00 by Shawn Crawford. Grimes had the sixth-fastest time.

Bryan Clay won the decathlon with 8,660 points, and world

champion Tom Pappas was second with 8,517. Paul Terrek won the third spot on the U.S. squad for Athens.

In the women's 100 hurdles, three-time world champion Devers moved a step closer to making her fifth Olympic team.

Devers, who has never won an Olympic medal in the hurdles despite being the world's best in that event for most of the past decade, was second overall in the quarterfinals with a time of 12.79. Joanna Hayes was fastest in 12.67.

Former Olympic champion Allen Johnson had the fastest time of 13.25 in the quarterfinals of the men's 110 hurdles.

Monique Hennagan won the women's 400. Melvin Lister captured the U.S. title in the men's triple jump and Breaux Greer won the men's javelin. Tim Seaman and the men's 20 have denied steroid use and requested arbitration hearings. If found guilty, they face lifetime bans.

Four men connected to BALCO, including the personal trainer of baseball's Barry Bonds, have pleaded innocent to charges of distributing steroids to top athletes. No athlete has been charged with criminal wrongdoing.

THG was a previously undetectable steroid that was identified by anti-doping officials last summer. The Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative allegedly distributed the THG.

USADA also has charged four sprinters — including Tim Montgomery, the world record holder in the 100 and the boyfriend of triple Olympic champion Marion Jones — with use of THG and other steroids. All have denied steroid use and requested arbitration hearings. If found guilty, they face lifetime bans.

Four men connected to BALCO, including the personal trainer of baseball's Barry Bonds, have pleaded innocent to charges of distributing steroids to top athletes. No athlete has been charged with criminal wrongdoing.

# Jacobs suspended for steroid use

BY ROB GLOSTER

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Regina Jacobs, who announced her retirement earlier this week, has become the fourth U.S. track and field athlete to receive a multiyear suspension after a positive test for the steroid THG.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency announced Saturday that Jacobs, whose long and remarkably successful middle-distance running career ended in disgrace because of the positive test, has been suspended for four years.

Jacobs, 40, accepted the ban and agreed to forfeit all of her results starting with her 12th national title in the 1,500 — which she won in last year's U.S. championship — on the same day she tested positive for THG.

An arbitration hearing in Ja-

cobs' case had been scheduled for Sunday.

"I have notified USADA that I will no longer object to their imposition of sanctions because I have already retired and want to avoid being subjected to what I believe would be an unfair hearing," Jacobs said in a statement released by her lawyer, Edward Williams.

Shot putter Kevin Tole and hammer throwers John McEwen and Melissa Price all also tested positive for THG in the 2003 national championships and were suspended for two years. Tole and Price forfeited the national titles they won in that meet.

European 100-meter champion Dwan Chambers of Britain flunked an out-of-competition test for THG last year and was suspended for two years. Kelli White forfeited her 100 and 200 world ti-

ties and accepted a two-year ban after admitting use of THG and other banned drugs.

THG was a previously undetectable steroid that was identified by anti-doping officials last summer. The Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative allegedly distributed the THG.

USADA also has charged four sprinters — including Tim Montgomery, the world record holder in the 100 and the boyfriend of triple Olympic champion Marion Jones — with use of THG and other steroids. All have denied steroid use and requested arbitration hearings. If found guilty, they face lifetime bans.

Four men connected to BALCO, including the personal trainer of baseball's Barry Bonds, have pleaded innocent to charges of distributing steroids to top athletes. No athlete has been charged with criminal wrongdoing.



Twelve-time U.S. 1,500-meter champion Regina Jacobs, who retired earlier in the week, was suspended by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency for four years for use of the steroid THG.

# Gardner wins first international wrestling title since '01

The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Olympic champion Rulon Gardner won his first Greco-Roman international title in three years on Saturday, capturing the 264½-pound class in the Pytlasinski wrestling tournament.

Gardner defeated 2002 world bronze medalist Yuri Patrikeev

of Russia 2-0 in the finals. In the semifinals, he beat 2003 world bronze medalist Mirian Giorgadze of Georgia 3-1.

Gardner is trying to become the first American to win two Olympic gold medals in Greco-Roman wrestling. The tournament was the last major tournament before the Athens Olympics.

The title was Gardner's first outside the United States since the 2001 world championships, which came a year after his 1-0 upset of three-time Olympic champion Alexander Karelin of Russia in the Sydney Olympics.

Gardner, a resident of Cascade, Colo., was idle for nearly a year after losing a toe to frostbite

while becoming lost during a snowmobiling trip in February 2002. He finished only 10th in last year's world championships in Creteil, France.

He rebounded from a third-place finish in the U.S. national championships in April to beat 2002 world champion Dreniel Byers in the U.S. Olympic trials finals in May.

# IAAF: U.S. relay team should be stripped

BY AIDAN LEWIS

The Associated Press

GROSSETO, Italy — The International Association of Athletics Federations said Sunday that the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team, led by Michael Johnson, should be stripped of its 2000 Olympic gold.

The recommendation is tied to 400-meter world champion Jerome Young's positive doping test in 1999.

The IAAF, which held an unusual council meeting here, will now make recommendations to the International Olympic Committee.

"The consequences are important," IAAF general secretary Istan Gonal said following the decision. "If the result is annulled, you don't get the medals for a result that doesn't stand. If someone is not eligible, that athlete cannot have a valid result."

The IOC is expected to endorse the IAAF's decision, probably before next month's Athens Olympics.

"The IOC told us that we follow your decision," the president of the IAAF, Lamine Diack, said.

The announcement came 2½ weeks after the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled that Young, who ran in the 1,600-meter relay's opening and semifinal rounds, should be stripped of his Olympic gold because of a positive doping test for the steroid nandrolone on June 26, 1999.

Young, who has denied taking a prohibited substance, was exonerated by a USA Track and Field doping appeals board on July 10, 2000.

"We don't consider it a triumph," Gonal said. "We consider it our moral obligation."

The gold was the fifth and last for Johnson, the 200- and 400-meter world record holder who ran the anchor leg in the relay final. Other members of the team were twin brothers Alvin and Calvin Harrison, Antonio Pettigrew and Angelo Taylor.

The team members will be involved to present their case to the IOC during a hearing, either in person or in writing.

If the IOC sticks to the IAAF's recommendation, Nigeria would be upgraded to gold, Jamaica to silver and the Bahamas to bronze.

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Andretti Green Racing's Tony Kanaan (11) increased his lead in the IRL driver standings to 61 points with a victory in the Firestone Indy 200 on Saturday in Gladeville, Tenn. It was Kanaan's third victory of the season.

## Kanaan wins third IRL race

### Teammate's misfortune helps driver pad series lead

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

GLADEVILLE, Tenn. — Dan Wheldon's bad luck turned into another victory for Tony Kanaan.

Kanaan saw Wheldon's right rear tire going flat after a tangle with Buddy Rice's car and grabbed the lead before holding off Sam Hornish Jr. in a 12-lap shootout Saturday night in the Firestone Indy 200.

After his third victory of the season, Kanaan said he felt sorry for his teammate who probably had a better car at the Nashville Superspeedway.

"His start was perfect. He

made a decision on the setup I didn't believe would work, and it definitely worked pretty well. The beginning of the race I was thinking I should've gone that way," Kanaan said.

"Unfortunately, sometimes it doesn't go your way. Tonight it wasn't his fault. But he was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Kanaan led only the final 19 laps, but that was enough to pad his lead in the IndyCar Series driver standings from 28 points to 61 over Wheldon, his Andretti Green Racing teammate. Kanaan also won at Phoenix and Texas.

Hornish, driving for the Penske team that won here last year with

Gil de Ferran, tried to chase down Kanaan. Hornish appeared to be ready to pass Kanaan on the backstretch of the final lap but lost momentum.

Hornish finished second ahead of teammate Helio Castroneves, who was fourth for a second straight year here. Darren Manning was fourth with a Toyota engine, followed by Townsend Bell with a Chevrolet engine.

Rice, the pole-sitter who was trying for his second straight victory, led 52 laps before losing the lead to Wheldon, who gambled on a pit stop on lap 165 by not taking any tires on the IRL's only concrete track and beat everyone out of the pits.

## Starr speeds to NASCAR truck win on last lap

The Associated Press

MADISON, Ill. — David Starr became only the second driver in NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series history to win by leading only the final lap, bumping his way to victory Saturday night in the Dodge Ram Tough 200.

Starr, driving a Chevrolet, nudged his way past Chad Chaf-

fin in Gateway International Raceway's first turn and beat Dennis Setzer to the checkered flag by 0.444 seconds — about two truck lengths.

The race was scheduled for 160 laps, but was extended by caution a record four times for 14 laps.

Starr, who averaged 93.694 mph, won \$54,210 for his first victory since October 2002 in Las

Vegas. Ted Musgrave was third, followed by Chaffin, Matt Crafton, Travis Kvapil, Randy LaJoie, David Reutimann and Bill Lester.

Setzer, who entered the race with a six-lap lead over Bobby Hamilton in the driver standings, extended his advantage to 64.

Nine drivers exchanged the lead a Gateway-record 15 times.

## Agassi pulls out of RCA to rest before U.S. Open

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Andre Agassi withdrew from the RCA Championships on Saturday, saying his 34-year-old body needs rest as he prepares for the U.S. Open.

Agassi said his off-injured hip felt great coming off three matches this week in the Mercedes-Benz Cup in Los Angeles, but he didn't want to risk overexerting himself playing consecutive weeks.

"It was a concern of overload and playing too many weeks in a row through an important and big summer," Agassi said in a conference call from California. "It's a scheduling issue."

Agassi was the top seed in Los Angeles this week, but lost to Tommy Haas 7-6 (5), 6-7 (6), 6-3 in the quarterfinals Friday.

### Earnhardt Jr. treated for burns after crash

SONOMA, Calif. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. was treated for minor burns on his face and legs and hospitalized after an accident Sunday during practice for the American Le Mans Series Infiniti Grand Prix of Sonoma.

Medical officials at Infineon Raceway described the injuries as "moderate-sized burns of moderate intensity." Earnhardt was flown to the University of California-Davis Medical Center in Sacramento as a precaution.

During a 30-minute practice, Earnhardt's Chevrolet Corvette CS-R spun and hit a barrier in turn 8 of the road course, catching fire. Earnhardt got out of the car on his own before being assisted by safety crews.

Earnhardt, who competes in the Nextel Cup series, was to have driven in Sunday's ALMS race with veteran road racer Boris Said. The team withdrew the car from the race.

### Diaz outpoints Sim to capture WBA lightweight title

HOUSTON — Juan Diaz captured the WBA lightweight championship in front of a hometown crowd by outpointing Laksa Sim on Monday night in a 10-round bout. The judges scored the bout 118-110, 116-112 and 118-111.

### Sports briefs

Diaz (25-0) threw sharp combinations and went toe to toe with Sim (19-4-1) in a brawling match.

In other action, Continental Americas champion Rocky Juarez (21-0) outpointed Zabeer Raheem (25-1) in an IBF featherweight elimination bout. Juarez scored the bout 115-109, 113-111 and 114-110.

Kermit Cintrón (24-0) captured the WBO interim and NABF welterweight championships by stopping Teddy Reid (22-6-1) at 2:04 of the eighth round.

### Former IBF lightweight champ Spadafora TKOs Campos

PITTSBURGH — Former IBF lightweight champion Paul Spadafora won his second straight fight since moving up to junior welterweight, stopping Francisco Campos in the third round Saturday night.

Spadafora, from Pittsburgh, won the first two rounds and opened a cut above Campos' right eye before referee Rick Steigerwald stopped the fight at 1:02 of the third.

Spadafora (38-0-1) looks toward a possible fight against Arturo Gatti, Ricky Hatton or Leonard Dorin. Campos, from Costa Rica, is 17-1-1.

Spadafora gave up his IBF 135-pound following a 12-round draw with William Dorin in a May 17, 2003, title unification fight in Pittsburgh.

### All's daughter stops Eplion in fourth

BOWIE, Md. — Laila Ali had little trouble defending her International Boxing Association super middleweight championship Saturday night by stopping Nikki Eplion at 1:30 of the fourth round.

Ali (17-0, 13 knockouts), the daughter of Muhammad Ali, showed some of the speed and quickness that made her father famous.

She repeatedly cut off the slower Eplion (12-2-2), forcing her to the ropes or into a corner and unloading with flurries of punches.

## Earthquakes shake off winless streak

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Brian Ching scored twice to help the San Jose Earthquakes snap a five-game winless streak with a 3-1 victory Saturday over the Colorado Rapids.

In the 22nd minute, Landon Donovan collected a long pass and dished the ball to Ronnie Ekend. The Danish midfielder found Ching, who beat former San Jose goalkeeper Joe Cannon.

Ching gave San Jose a 2-0 lead in the 30th minute, after Donovan twice failed to score. Donovan had a one-on-one chance against Cannon but didn't get a good shot. He soon had another shot but hit the left post.

Seconds later, Ramiro Corrales crossed to Ching, who tapped in his second goal.

### MLS roundup

Donovan converted his next chance, scoring San Jose's final goal from six yards in the 55th minute.

Second-half substitute Seth Tremblay scored Colorado's only goal — his first of the season — with a blast in the 83rd minute.

**Galaxy 1, United 1:** Carlos Ruiz scored his MLS-leading 10th goal on a second-half penalty kick, lifting Los Angeles to a tie with host D.C. United.

Los Angeles (9-5-5) is unbeaten in its past five games. D.C. is 4-2-3 at home and 5-6-6 overall.

**Crew 1, Revolution 1:** In Columbus, Ohio, Kyle Martino scored in the 45th minute to help

Columbus (5-5-5) tie New England (4-8-5).

**MetroStars 1, Fire 1:** Amado Guevara scored on a penalty kick in the 84th minute to give the visiting MetroStars a tie.

The MetroStars (6-6-5) remained atop the Eastern Conference standings despite a 1-3-1 record in the past five games.

Damian Ralph scored his team-leading eighth goal for Chicago (4-6-7).

**Wizards 1, Burn 0:** Tony Meola kept the Wizards safe in his MLS-record 55th career shutout, and Diego Gutierrez scored for visiting Kansas City.

Meola, the MLS leader with seven shutouts, helped Kansas City (9-4-4) push its unbeaten streak to eight games. Dallas dropped to 5-6-5.

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# El Duque gives boost to Yankees' beat-up rotation

The Associated Press

**DETROIT** — The New York Yankees might have found a solution to their pitching woes that doesn't involve Randy Johnson.

While the Yankees explore a trade for the Arizona ace and wait for Kevin Brown and Mike Mussina to come off the disabled list, Orlando Hernandez has filled in quite well.

El Duque won for the second time in two starts since returning to the major leagues, beating the Detroit Tigers 5-3 Saturday night.

Hernandez allowed three runs and six hits in five innings, striking out six and walking three. Last weekend, he beat

Tampa Bay 10-3 in his first major league game since 2002.

"It has helped a lot that my teammates are so happy about my return," Hernandez said through a translator. "I feel good, but I just need to keep working on my location so that I don't keep throwing 100 pitches in five innings."

The Cuban right-hander, believed to be 38, had shoulder surgery in May 2003 to repair a small tear in his rotator cuff, and he was brought up to patch a rotation missing Brown (bad back) and Mussina (sore elbow).

"It's great to see him back — I know how hard he has worked to get here again," teammate Jason Giambi said. "It's going to be huge if he can pitch like this for us down the stretch."

Hernandez's fastball topped out in the high 80s, but he baffled Tigers batters with an assortment of breaking pitches, including a roundhouse curve that was clocked as low as 56 mph.

"I don't think he's the same velocity-wise, but he's smart," Tigers manager Alan Trammell said. "He knows what he's doing out there, so even if he doesn't come at you with the same fastball as he once did, he's very effective."

Paul Quantrill, Tom Gordon and Mariano Rivera finished. Gordon struck out four in 1 1/3 perfect innings, and Rivera got three straight outs for his AL-leading 33rd save in 34 chances.

Gary Sheffield homered and drove in three runs for the Yankees before a crowd

of 41,857, the third-largest in Comerica Park's five-year history. Detroit, which matched the 2003 wins total Friday, lost for just the third time in nine games.

Gary Knotts (5-4) dropped to 1-3 in his last five starts, giving up four runs and 10 hits in 5 1/3 innings. He 0-3 with an 11.48 ERA in his career against the Yankees.

"I thought I had good stuff and was making good pitches," he said. "They have an All-Star lineup and they are going to get their hits."

The game was delayed slightly in the second inning when the Comerica Park emergency buzzer and lights went off. A recorded announcement said there was an emergency in the stadium, but the scoreboard quickly informed fans that it was a false alarm.

## Angels get Colon past rough start

The Associated Press

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** — The way Bartolo Colon's pitch count was rising, it didn't look as though he'd be around for the fourth inning — let alone the sixth.

His teammates made it easier for him to stick around, staking the struggling right-hander to a five-run lead through four, and the Anaheim Angels went on to beat the Boston Red Sox 8-3 Saturday night despite two home runs by Johnny Damon.

"From the start, I always think I'm going eight or nine innings," Colon said. "After the first two innings, I reduced that to think I could still go seven. I was trying to be a little too fine early, and it cost me a couple of walks."

Colon (7-8) won his second straight start after going 1-6 with an 8.45 ERA in his previous 10 outings. The right-hander allowed a run and three hits, including the first of Damon's homers. He struck out one and walked five.

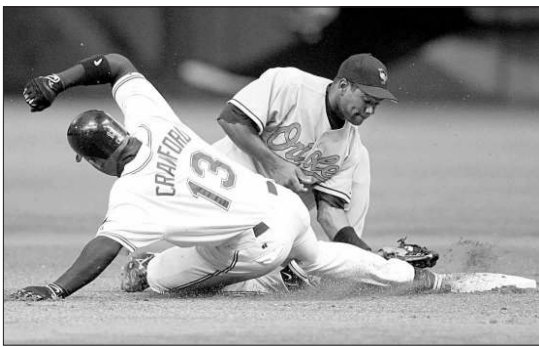
Colon threw 48 pitches in the first two innings, allowing five of his first nine batters to reach base — but still managed to keep the frustrated Red Sox off the board. He walked Mark Bellhorn and David Ortiz on 3-2 counts with one out in the first, then got behind him. Garcia's 2-0 became a routine hit on a double-play grounder.

"After the second inning, we just saw better command of his fastball," pitching coach Bud Black said. "He wasn't missing by much, and he didn't give in. Bart can throw a strike when he wants, but he wasn't missing as terribly that he had to throw the ball right down the middle."

Gabe Kapler singled with two outs in the second. Colon walked the next two batters before escaping the bases-loaded jam on Damon's flyout. He threw two pitches the next two innings — 15 for strikes.

Vladimir Guerrero and Adam Kennedy homered, helping the Angels lead for the seventh time in nine games. Darin Erstad and Garret Anderson each hit a two-run single.

Wakefield (5-6) gave up five runs and eight hits in four innings.



**Baltimore Orioles shortstop Miguel Tejada tags Tampa Bay Devil Rays' Carl Crawford at second on a pickoff attempt during the second inning on Saturday in St. Petersburg, Fla. Crawford was out on the play.**

## Switch-hitting Teixeira joins select company in Texas win

The Associated Press

**ARLINGTON, Texas** — Mark Teixeira hit a three-run homer and Ricardo Rodriguez combined with three relievers on a shutout to lead the Texas Rangers over the Toronto Blue Jays 4-0 Saturday night.

Teixeira hit his 20th homer of the season in the fourth inning after Michael Young singled off Ted Lilly (7-7) and Alex Soriano walked. Soriano, the All-Star Game MVP, added an RBI single in the eighth off Vinnie Chulk.

Teixeira became the fifth-youngest switch-hitter to hit at least 20 homers in his first two seasons. Mickey Mantle, Eddie Murray, Ruben Sierra, and Chipper Jones reached the milestone at a younger age than his 24-year-old Teixeira, who hit 26 as a rookie.

Rodriguez (3-0), coming off a three-hit shutout of Cleveland on July 8, allowed eight hits in 6 1/3 innings, giving him 15 1/3 consecutive scoreless innings. Rodriguez was sidelined April 17 to June 5

### AL Roundup

while recovering from appendicitis, then went to Triple-A Oklahoma for six starts.

Rodriguez, Brian Shouse, Frank Francisco and Ron Mahay combined for Texas' fifth shutout of the season. The AL West-leading Rangers (51-37) matched the 1996 team for the best record after 88 games in club history.

Alex Rios had three hits for the Blue Jays, who lost their fifth straight game and were shut out for the sixth time this year.

Lilly allowed three runs and four hits in six innings.

In Saturday's other AL games: **White Sox 5, Athletics 2:**

Freddy Garcia won for the third time in four starts since his trade to the White Sox, leading host Chicago over Oakland.

Garcia (7-8) is 3-1 with a 3.95 ERA since Seattle dealt him to the White Sox on June 27. He allowed two runs — one earned — and two hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out six and walking two.

**Twins 4, Royals 1:** Johan Santana allowed one hit in eight innings, and Lew Ford and Justin Morneau hit back-to-back home runs for visiting Minnesota.

Santana (8-6) improved 6-2 with a 1.43 ERA in his last eight starts, allowing only a leadoff double to Angel Berroa in the second inning as the Twins stopped a five-game losing streak.

**Orioles 3, Devil Rays 2:** Miguel Tejada had three hits and an RBI, leading Rodrigo Lopez and Baltimore past host Tampa Bay.

Lopez (7-5) allowed only one run despite walking five in 5 1/3 innings.

**Indians 6, Mariners 5:** Ben Broussard hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning and drove in three runs, sending C.C. Sabathia and visiting Cleveland to a victory over Seattle.

## Devil Rays cut McGriff

Struggling slugger seven HR short of 500

The Associated Press

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** — Fred McGriff was cut Saturday by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, seven home runs short of 500.

McGriff, 40, struggled after the Devil Rays brought him up from Triple-A Durham on May 28, hitting .181 with two homers and seven RBIs in 27 games. He hasn't homered since June 17 against Mark Eaton at San Diego.

Tampa Bay designated him for assignment, meaning the Devil Rays have 10 days to trade him, send him outright to the minors or place him on waivers.

"If a major league club has interest in Fred, we'll let him go," Tampa Bay General Manager Chuck LaMar said.

McGriff is tied with Lou Gehrig for 12th place on the career home run list. He was trying to join Ted Williams, Willie McCovey and Eddie Murray as the only players to reach 500 homers after turning 40.

"It's not an easy situation," manager Lou Pinella said. "Hopefully, somebody will pick him up and give him a further opportunity. I was hoping things would be different. But the organization wanted to get younger, and that's really what we're doing."

The Devil Rays called up outfielder Jorge Gathright and infielder Jorge Canham from Durham. Utilityman Samian Rollins was optioned to Durham.

"I'm sentimental when it comes to Fred, but there comes a time when you have to decide to put our best team on the field," LaMar said.

A Tampa native, McGriff played for the Devil Rays from their inception in 1998 until a 2001 trade to the Chicago Cubs. McGriff has 2,490 hits and 958 extra-base hits, 30th on the career list. He has homered in a major league-record 43 ballparks.

Asked if falling short of 500 home runs would keep McGriff out of the Hall of Fame, Pinella said it shouldn't.

"I don't see where seven home runs would make a difference," Pinella said. "He's had a marvelous career."

# No. 297 is a gem

## Cubs ace throws first shutout in three years

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Greg Maddux pitched a six-hitter for his first complete game in exactly one year and his first shutout in three years, leading the Chicago Cubs to a 5-0 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Saturday.

Sammy Sosa hit his 556th homer and Moises Alou also homered for the Cubs.

Maddux (8-7) earned his 297th victory and his first shutout since a six-hitter against Tampa Bay on July 17, 2001. The 38-year-old right-hander pitched his first complete game since an eight-hitter against the New York Mets last July 17. Maddux retired eight of his first nine batters and struck out the side in the eighth.

"As far as a day to pitch on, this was as easy it gets," Maddux said. "It was cool, the wind was blowing in and all the mistakes were hit at guys."

"There was a lot of balls down the middle, but they were hit right at people. A few of the double-plays today were mistake pitches. Sometimes the ball bounces your way."

Ben Sheets (9-6) gave up two runs and six hits in seven innings while striking out eight.

**Phillies 8, Mets 2:** Jim Thome hit his major league-leading 30th homer in the ninth inning to blow open a close game. Visiting Philadelphia led 4-2 when Thome homered off Jose Parra with one out, his third hit of the game. Jimmy Rollins added a two-run double in second.

Randy Wolf (4-5) allowed one run and six hits in 5½ innings to win for just the second time in 10 starts.

Tom Glavine (7-8) allowed four runs — two earned — in 6½ innings and has lost five straight starts for the first time in his career. Mike Piazza hit his 17th homer in the eighth.

**Reds 7, Cardinals 5:** Adam Dunn hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the eighth inning as host Cincinnati cooled the Cardinals.

After Julian Tavarez (2-3) hit Ryan Freel with one out, Steve Kline walked Barry Larkin, then surrendered Dunn's 26th homer.

St. Louis, which had won 10 of 11 games, entered the seventh inning trailing 4-0, but rallied to tie the game on Albert Pujols' 24th home run in the eighth.

Larkin and Willy Mo Pena also homered for the Reds, just 2-7 against St. Louis this season.

Todd Jones (8-2) allowed one run and three hits in 1½ innings. Danny Graves pitched the ninth for his major league-leading 34th save.

**Padres 7, Astros 4:** Mark Loretta hit a two-run homer to spark a five-run fifth and David Wells won his third straight decision.

The host Astros (44-46) have dropped four of their last eight and trail NL Central-leading St. Louis by 12 games.

Wells (5-5) gave up three runs and seven hits in 5½ innings, and Trevor Hoffman

*"As far as a day to pitch on, this was as easy it gets. It was cool, the wind was blowing in and all the mistakes were hit at guys."*

Greg Maddux

Chicago Cubs pitcher



Pittsburgh shortstop Jack Wilson leaps to grab an errant throw from catcher Jason Kendall as Florida baserunner Juan Pierre steals second during the fifth inning of Saturday night's game.

pitched the ninth for his 24th save. Roy Oswalt (8-8) gave up seven runs and eight hits in 4½ innings.

**Braves 6, Expos 2:** Marcus Giles hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning and Russ Ortiz continued his domination of the visiting Expos.

J.D. Drew and Adam LaRoche had solo homers for the Braves, who won for the 14th time in 18 games and stayed one game behind Philadelphia in the NL East.

Ortiz (11-6) won his fifth straight start and improved to 4-0 this season against the Expos. He allowed one hit — an RBI single by Carl Everett in the first — and pitched around five walks in 7½ innings. John Smoltz got the final four outs for his 17th save in 19 chances.

**Pirates 4, Marlins 2:** Tike Redman's tying single sparked a three-run rally in the eighth and Pittsburgh extended its home winning streak to nine games, its longest since a 24-game run in 1978.

Marlins starter Carl Pavano took a 2-1 lead into the eighth, only to be lifted for closer Armando Benitez after Jason Bay doubled with one out.

Benitez (2-4) had pitched 11 consecutive scoreless innings spanning eight games, but

this time allowed five of the first six batters he faced to reach base. Redman's run-scoring single tied it, pinch-hitter Tony Alvarez had a go-ahead sacrifice fly and Jack Wilson singled in another run.

**Giants 4, Rockies 0:** Jason Schmidt allowed four hits in eight innings for his 12th straight victory, beating Colorado in the 26th shutout in Coors Field history.

The Giants managed just three hits, but Barry Bonds had a two-run double in the eighth after being walked twice. That was more than enough for Schmidt (12-2), who struck out eight and walked two in combining with Jim Browner and Scott Eyre on a four-hit, Schmidt has not lost since April 26, a span of 16 starts. Jack Sanford won 16 straight decisions for the Giants in 1962.

**Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 6:** Pinch-hitter Robin Ventura hit a two-run homer in the ninth as visiting Los Angeles beat Arizona.

Adrian Beltre had an RBI single earlier in the inning off Mike Kopelove, who hit two batters, walked one and gave up three runs while getting just one out. Kopelove left after allowing Beltre's hit. Brian Bruney (2-3) relieved and got an out before Ventura homered.

Eric Gagne struck out the side around a single in the ninth for his 25th save in 26 chances.

# No pain in Prior's 5-minute session

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Mark Prior threw for about five minutes on a flat surface Saturday before the Chicago Cubs played the Milwaukee Brewers.

"For the most part I felt pretty good," Prior said.

Pitching coach Larry Rothschild also was encouraged by the workout.

"He threw pretty much without pain," Rothschild said. "He threw breaking balls, he threw some fastballs with arm acceleration to them and everything came off pretty well."

Prior, who felt some aches, missed the first two months of the season with a

MLB briefs

sore right Achilles' tendon and tender elbow. He left Thursday's game against Milwaukee in the second inning when he felt discomfort in the elbow.

Prior was scheduled for a more intense bullpen session on Sunday. The Cubs haven't decided if he will make his scheduled start Tuesday against St. Louis.

"It's possible, but I would be very guarded," Rothschild said.

Prior was upset about speculation that he might need surgery.

"People outside the locker room have no idea what is going on," Prior said. "People are writing irresponsibly and saying things irresponsible. They can say whatever they want, but they don't know the facts."

## Halladay will make next start

ARLINGTON, Texas — Toronto to right-hander Roy Halladay will make his scheduled start on Wednesday in New York against the Yankees despite concerns about his sore shoulder.

Halladay, the reigning AL Cy Young winner, allowed six runs and seven hits over four innings in Friday night's 11-2 loss at Texas, his shortest outing of the season.

Halladay was on the DL because of soreness in his right shoulder and has made seven starts since he was activated on June 12, going 2-3 with a 5.85 ERA. He walked 13 during that span.

"We'll see how he does over the next couple of days and go from there," Blue Jays manager Carlos Tosca said. "He's still scheduled to make his next start."

Halladay, 7-7 this season after going 22-7 in 2003, said after Friday night's game that he has a tired arm, but didn't think there was anything seriously wrong.

## Reliever has elbow surgery

CINCINNATI — St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Mike Lincoln will miss the rest of the season after having elbow ligament replacement surgery.

The right-hander was 3-2 with a 5.19 ERA in 13 relief appearances. He's been on the disabled list since May 4.

# Top riders relax during Tour's 14th stage

BY JOHN LEICESTER

The Associated Press

NIMES, France — After two torrid days in the Pyrenees and more pain lurking in the Alps, Lance Armstrong and other top riders caught their breath Sunday, allowing Aitor Gonzalez of Spain to win the flat 14th stage.

Armstrong finished in 39th place alongside overall leader Thomas Voeckler. They both had the same time, meaning Voeckler kept his 22-second lead on the five-time champion for at least another day.

Gonzalez was among 10 riders who were so far down in the overall standings that the main pack, which included Armstrong, did not chase the small group that surged ahead with about 55 miles left.

The stage win was Gonzalez's first in three Tours and the first by a Spanish rider in this year's showcase race. The main pack was way behind, still pedaling, when the Spaniard crossed the line in Nîmes, the picturesque end of a 119.6-mile swing through southern France from the medieval fortified city of Carcassonne.

Armstrong, aiming for a record sixth straight Tour de France title, and Voeckler finished 14 minutes, 12 seconds behind Gonzalez. The Texan is expected to take the lead from Voeckler, a Frenchman who has shown surprising resilience, in the Alps and two time trials in this last week of the three-week race.

Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour winner who had two disastrous days in the Pyrenees, placed 21st, also with the same time as Voeckler and Armstrong. The German remains 6:39 behind Armstrong overall — out of contention for the Tour title.



AP

Danilo Hondo, Erik Zabel, Thor Hushovd and Robbie McEwen battle at the end of Sunday's 14th stage of the Tour de France. McEwen padded his lead in the Tour's sprint standings.

Italian Ivan Basso, the last real threat to Armstrong, placed 31st — still 1:17 behind Armstrong overall.

Australian Robbie McEwen solidified his campaign to win the green jersey awarded to the Tour's best sprinter by dashing to the line ahead of other speedsters. His 11th-place finish earned him 15 points in the green jersey competition, taking his total to 225.

Erik Zabel of Germany, who picked up

11 points by finishing 15th, is second in the sprinters' standings with 212 points.

Norwegian Thor Hushovd, edged at the line Sunday by McEwen, is third with 209 points. McEwen, who also won in 2002, is well-placed to take his second green jersey title at the finish in Paris on July 25 — if he makes it over the Alps this week.

Gonzalez, winner of the 2002 Tour of Spain, broke away from his small group with just over 3 miles left. The nine other cyclists in his escape group couldn't orga-

nize an effective chase, allowing Gonzalez to build a small lead that he held to the finish.

"I felt the ideal moment to attack and I gave everything I had," he said.

It was the third victory for his Fassa Bortolo team in this Tour.

"It's an enormous satisfaction for me," said Gonzalez, who has never completed a Tour and is still 24:34 behind Armstrong overall, with no hope of a top-three finish. "Until now, things had not gone as I wanted. But today victory is here."

Two French riders in the escape group, Nicolas Jalabert and Christophe Mengin, made a late but fruitless effort to catch Gonzalez. They rolled in second and third, respectively, 25 seconds behind the Spaniard's mark of 4 hours, 18 minutes, 32 seconds.

The first 60 miles were quick and tiring on legs already aching after two days of grueling climbs in the Pyrenees, where Armstrong overpowered other favorites, clearing his path to another title.

Because none of Sunday's 10 breakaway riders represented a threat to Armstrong, Voeckler and others, there was little point chasing them. The main pack, already looking forward to a rest day Monday, ceased up as the escapees disappeared into the distance.

"We started to unwind," French rider Richard Virenque said. "Some of the boys are exhausted."

Riders will use the rest day to regroup, treat injuries and steel themselves physically and mentally for three days in the Alps. The first Alpine stage Tuesday, 112 miles from Valreas to Villard-de-Lans, takes riders up seven climbs, including a steep 7½-mile ascent of the Col de l'Echarasson.

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## SPORTS



McGriff cut by Devil Rays  
seven homers shy of 500,  
Page 29

# Dream come Troon

## Journeyman Hamilton wins British Open in playoff

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

TROON, Scotland — Toughened by a 12-year journey through some of the most obscure outposts in golf, Todd Hamilton finally arrived in a major way Sunday with a playoff victory over Ernie Els to win the British Open.

A year ago, he didn't even have a PGA Tour card. After a hard-fought final round at Royal Troon and four extra holes against one of the best players in the world, the 38-year-old American won the claret jug and was introduced as the champion golfer of the year.

What a ride! Hamilton made four pars in the playoff, the last one the toughest of all. From 40 yards short of the cup, he used a utility club to bump the ball along the crusty grass to within 2 feet of the cup. Els had one last chance, but missed a 15-foot birdie putt.

Hamilton knocked in the final putt, started to retrieve it from the hole, then realized what he had just done. He let out a whoop, raised his arms in the air and hugged his caddie, Ron Levin.

For the second year in a row, the silver jug went to a player no one could have imagined at the start of the week. But unlike Ben Curtis, who was ranked 396th when he won at Royal St. George's in his first major, no one will ever call Hamilton a fluke.

Not after he beat back a leader board loaded with majors champions.

Not after he refused to get flustered when Phil Mickelson took the lead with eight holes to play.

And certainly not after going toe-to-toe with Els in a pressure-packed playoff.

"It was truly a blast," Hamilton said.

Hamilton, an 11-time winner on the Japanese tour, thought he had hit the big time when he birdied the final two holes for a one-shot victory over Davis Love III in the Honda Classic in March.

Now, his name is on the oldest trophy in golf, alongside names like Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.

Hamilton was fighting back tears as he prepared to hoist the jug.

"We've got a great champion," said Els, who had a chance to win in regulation until missing a 12-foot birdie putt that sent the British Open into its fifth playoff in its 110 years.

For Els, it was another major setback.

He had one arm in the green



Todd Hamilton jumps into the arms of his caddie Ron Levin after winning the British Open at Royal Troon golf course in Troon, Scotland on Sunday. Hamilton defeated South Africa's Ernie Els in a four-hole playoff.

jacket until Mickelson made an 18-foot birdie on the final hole to beat him by one shot at the Masters. Els played in the final group at the U.S. Open, two shots out of the lead, and shot 80.

Els had to make 10-footers for birdie on the 16th and 17th holes to keep his hopes alive at Royal Troon. And when Hamilton bogeyed the 18th hole in regulation, the Big Easy had a 12-foot putt for the win.

But he left it short, and his putter let him down in the playoff. He missed a 12-foot birdie putt on No. 1, and fell behind when he overshot the third extra hole, the par-3 17th, and missed a 10-foot-er for par.

Hamilton made sure he never caught up.

"Coming so close obviously is disappointing," Els said. "To get into the playoff from where I was, you've got to take the positive."

Els shot 68 in the final round and earned a dubious distinction.

He had all four rounds in the 60s for the second time in a British Open without winning; the other time was at Royal St. George's in 1993.

Hamilton closed with a 2-under 69 to become the sixth consecutive American to win the Open at Royal Troon. They finished at 10 under 274, one shot ahead of Mickelson.

Hamilton, who finally got his PGA Tour card in December, earned about \$1.35 million and is



Leading scores after the final round of the 133rd British Open at Royal Troon:

*Todd Hamilton	71-67-67-69-274	-10
Ernie Els	69-68-68-68-274	-10
Phil Mickelson	73-66-68-68-275	-9
Lee Westwood	72-71-68-67-279	-6
Thomas Levet	66-70-71-72-279	-5
Davis Love III	72-69-71-67-279	-5
Scott Verplank	69-70-70-71-280	-4
Retief Goosen	69-70-68-73-280	-4
Mike Weir	72-69-71-67-281	-3
Tiger Woods	70-71-68-72-281	-3

x-won in four-hole playoff

Full-field scores on Page 25.



Spaniard captures  
flat 14th stage  
as Armstrong  
bides his time

Page 31



Maddux shuts out  
Brewers, moves  
step closer to  
300th career win

Page 30



Points leader  
Kanaan notches  
third IRL victory

Page 27

SEE DREAM ON PAGE 25